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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Sources Note 'Positive Sign' in PA Policy

TA2811123994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 94 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir in the territories]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Upon the resumption of negotiations with representatives of the Palestinian Authority [PA], Israel considers as a positive sign the Palestinian demand that elections for the PA council head be held in parallel with the planned elections for the council, regardless of the fact that the Oslo agreement does not entail that such elections be held. This was stated by senior Israeli sources last night, on the eve of the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the PLO on the continuation of the implementation of the autonomy in the West Bank, which will be held in a new form in Brussels.

In doing so, Israel will be going beyond the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. In return, Israel will ask that the Palestinians make concessions and go beyond the agreement on issues of security, mainly the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

The new form of negotiations—which was agreed on by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO head Yasir 'Arafat during their meeting at the Erez checkpoint at the beginning of November—combines all the issues pertaining to the continued implementation of the Oslo agreement: elections, the IDF redeployment in the West Bank, economic issues, the status of the "displaced" who left the territories in 1967, and other issues. [passage omitted]

The Israeli sources explained that when negotiations exclusively deal with elections or other issues in which the Palestinians are on the receiving end and Israel gives, Israel has no chips with which to bargain when the parties begin discussing the issue of security arrangements, which is of greater interest to Israel. When the two issues are put together, mutual concessions are possible.

Senior Israeli sources said yesterday that the offer to redeploy the IDF in the West Bank for only the three days of elections is but one of a series of offers and options Israel is currently examining. Arrangements for the elections, which require that the IDF redeploy their troops outside population centers, require complex preparations, much time, and large financial resources.

Advancing the elections would entail Palestinian concessions on security issues pertaining to the IDF redeployment in the West Bank, the senior Israeli sources said. [passage omitted]

Peres-'Arafat Negotiations Continue in Brussels

Agreement Reached on Agenda for Next Phase

TA2811193594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat agreed on the agenda of the second phase of the negotiations regarding the implementation of the agreement signed by Israel and the Palestinians. The talks will continue in Cairo.

In their talks, progress was made on the question of elections in the territories. 'Arafat said that the Israelis understand the need of the Palestinians to hold elections as soon as possible and that the Palestinians must understand the need of the Israelis for security.

The meeting between Peres and 'Arafat is still under way. Earlier, they met with the leading foreign ministers of the EU and asked them to speed up the aid to the Palestinian Authority. According to them, the response they received was encouraging.

Peres Hopeful of Resolving PA Problems

TA2911082994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference of the countries donating to the Palestinian Authority [PA] is scheduled to begin today in Brussels. Last night, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met in Brussels to prepare for the conference and also held meetings with European foreign ministers. The two men also began discussing the second stage in implementing the autonomy. At the conclusion of their meeting, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that although some problems still remain there was a chance of resolving them.

[Begin Peres recording] We dealt with several issues. First and foremost, how to guarantee the PA's recurring expenses. We also discussed setting up a fund to finance public works in order to deal with the problem of unemployment in the Gaza Strip. I think there is a good chance of resolving these problems. There is chronic confusion regarding the numbers. Each party quotes a different figure as its contribution. Obviously, regardless of where the contributions came from it still remains unclear whether or not they reached the correct address. Generally speaking, however, the picture is gradually clearing up and I think there is a good chance. [end recording]

Al-Shar' Claims Syria Ready To Resume Talks

TA2911060994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference in Brussels yesterday in which he claimed that Syria was ready to resume peace talks with Israel. Al-Shar' was speaking at a news conference with the participation of Israeli journalists after the EU decided to lift the arms boycott against Syria. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts attended the news conference, and here is his report:

[Begin recording] [Kouts] At the news conference, in which Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was at pains to give detailed replies to all the questions posed by the Israeli correspondents in the room, much to the displeasure of German EU Chairman Klaus Kinkel, the Syrian minister made the following statement:

[Al-Shar', in English] A few weeks ago, we had proposed to the American cosponsors to resume the peace talks. There was a negative response from the Israeli side, and in this context I would like to stress the fact that there can be no peace in the Middle East without Syria.

[Kouts translates above remarks and continues] Al-Shar' went on to explain that Syria had announced its readiness to resume the peace talks if Israel responded positively to what he described as the decisions reached at the Clinton-al-Asad summit. We have not received a positive response, al-Shar' said, noting however that Syria expected to see what kind of news Secretary of State Warren Christopher would be bringing next week, especially following Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with Clinton several days ago.

Syria was prepared to accept the objective demands of peace in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and an Israeli pullback to the June 1967 borders, the Syrian minister said. Syria was ready to establish normal relations with Israel; however, such relations could not be established under occupation. Israel would not lose face by withdrawing from the Golan Heights, al-Shar' explained, but Syria would not compromise its honor by relinquishing even one inch of its land. Al-Shar' also made some reassuring remarks.

Syria did not seriously intend to purchase weapons in Europe now that the arms embargo imposed in 1976 had been lifted. The embargo was simply an unjust political decision that had to be revoked, al-Shar asserted. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid: Scots Law Fair for Lockerbie Trial

NC2911073794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Majid] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, let us review the results of your meetings at which ways of settling the Lockerbie crisis were discussed.

['Abd-al-Majid] I am visiting London in response to an invitation by the Royal Society for International Relations at Chatham House to deliver a lecture on Arab integration and to open a seminar in the next two days on Arab-European relations and the effect of economic conditions on these relations. Yesterday I met Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is not in London now, you know. This meeting was an opportunity to review Arab-British relations and to discuss numerous important issues, particularly the Lockerbie issue. The Arab League attaches great importance to this issue and understands the need to find a peaceful solution to it. We are making efforts toward this end. The meeting was useful. The position I set forth is the position adopted by the Arab League's seven-member committee. It specifies what demands are fair in connection with the trial of the suspects before a Scottish court, in connection with the implementation of Scots Law, and with regard to holding the trial at one of the UN headquarters, notably, the Hague, which is the headquarters of the International Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Let us return to the first point raised during this conversation, that is, the urgent Lockerbie issue. The Arab League proposes a legal way of settling this issue. We understand that the secretary general has a specific legal opinion on how to deal with the two people suspected of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie.

['Abd-al-Majid] The overall Arab position, not merely the Libyan one, is in agreement with international law. The Arabs agree that the two suspects should appear before the Dutch court. We also accept the application of Scots Law in this instance. But it is difficult to envisage handing over the suspects to the United States or the British Government, first, because there are no extradition treaties between these two countries and Libya and, second, because it is not the international custom for one country to hand over its nationals to another country for trial. The Arabs tend to accept that Scots Law has jurisdiction over this case on condition that the trial take place in the Hague.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, the Voice of the Arabs thanks you.

['Abd-al-Majid] You are welcome.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Hails Peace Process, Palestinian 'Struggle'

LD2911114494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0935 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jiddah, 29 Nov—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has welcomed the progress achieved in the Middle East peace process.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people celebrated today, Dr. Hamid Algabid, the ICO's secretary general, stressed the need for the continuation and success of the peace process on all tracks, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He also stressed the need to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their inalienable right to return and self-determination and the restoration of Holy Jerusalem to Palestinian sovereignty as a capital of their independent state, as a guarantee of a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Dr. Algabid called on all Islamic states and the international community to provide all forms of support to the PLO in order to enable it to build its institutions and strengthen its national authority on the land of Palestine.

Algabid said that the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people came at the start of a new phase in the history of the struggle of the Palestinian people, a phase they inaugurated by taking over their national authority as a first fundamental step on the course of restoring their established rights and establishing their independent state on their land with Jerusalem as its capital.

Muslim Brotherhood Comments on Gaza Incidents

NC2811092094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The bloody massacre in Gaza after Friday prayers, in which 13 people were martyred and over 200 wounded, has agonized us.

The incident was not far from our expectations. The Zionist occupation authorities had directly threatened the Palestinian self-rule authority to choose between subservience to them and peaceful coexistence with the Palestinian opposition to the humiliating agreement signed with the Zionists.

The Muslim Brotherhood calls on the PLO to opt for peaceful coexistence and to punish those responsible for the massacre, referring them to an urgent public trial to calm tempers and restore peace.

The Muslim Brotherhood also appeals to all the sides to demonstrate restraint, not to be driven behind the Zionist scheme, and to avoid entering into a civil war that will destroy everything and waste the capabilities of the Palestinian people, who must be saved and directed against the malicious Zionist occupation, which seeks to drive a wedge among the sons of the Palestinian people.

The Muslim Brotherhood stresses that the Palestine issue—the Muslims' primary issue—is now going through a delicate and serious phase. There are signs that the Arab governments are submitting to the Zionist-American scheme and that some Islamic governments are rushing toward normalization with the Zionist enemy. The living conditions of the Palestinian people have worsened and the enemy has shown ambitions in the big mosques, most notably the al-Ibrahimi mosque, in preparation for Judaizing Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Only the Arab and Muslim peoples remain to confront this satanic scheme. This can be done by these people working to regain their freedom and sovereignty over their decisionmaking; opposing normalization with the Zionist enemy; continuing the popular boycott of the racist entity, which is usurping Muslims' rights; and supporting the jihad of the Palestinian people until they restore all their legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 18 Nov

NC2611104294

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 18 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamic Group in Suhaj Denies Terrorism Charges, Warns Regime
2. Students Protest Exclusion of Islamists From Polls
3. Tunisian Islamic Leader Condemns Recognition of Israel
4. Israel Said Behind Attempt To Kill Najib Mahfuz
5. Columnist Views U.S. Decision on Bosnia Embargo

Islamic Group in Suhaj Denies Terrorism Charges, Warns Regime

The paper publishes on page 6 an approximately 1,300-word undated statement signed by the Islamic Group in Suhaj Governorate in which the group claims that it is spreading the message of Islam through persuasion and good counsel, not through weapons and violence. The statement is a reaction to reportage that had appeared in the semi-official AL-AHRAM newspaper on 18 and 20 October. AL-AHRAM reportedly suggested that Suhaj is the fountain of terrorism and that members of the Islamic Group there control mosques by force and spread fear among citizens. After maintaining that Suhaj "is one of the calmest governorates in the country," the Islamic Group statement blames security services for escalating tension through arrests, torture, and killings. It recalls how the Islamic Group, in a seminar on 10 April 1994, called for dialogue and renunciation of violence, "but the Interior Ministry continued its bloody policy, refusing to listen to the voice of logic and wisdom." The statement describes how the Islamic Group in Suhaj won popular support through its services and help for the poor and through calm and peaceful religious preaching. It refutes the AL-AHRAM claim that Ansar al-Sunnah Mosque in Suhaj, in which the group holds a weekly seminar, has turned into a terrorism-breeding center. The statement says the security services are launching this media campaign against Suhaj "to prepare for attacking the Islamic trend there, as they did in Asyut, Qina, Aswan, and lately al-Minya. But what was the result? Blood, fatalities, and injured people." The statement further warns: "Asking the security services to take control of the mosque and close it, as is happening in Asyut, al-Minya, and other places, would create disturbances and cause problems, especially since people find shelter in the mosque whenever they run into trouble and hardship." The statement concludes: "Finally, after all that we have explained, the Islamic Group in Suhaj—and throughout Egypt—does not initiate confrontation and violence, but calls for God's message through reason and good counselling, and for applying God's shari'ah in every matter, large and small. Will anybody listen to the voice of reason and wisdom? Will anybody realize the consequences of gunfire, physical destruction, torture, and detention?"

Students Protest Exclusion of Islamists From Polls

An approximately 1,000-word report by 'Amir 'Id, Mu'tazz al-Hadidi, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on pages 1 and 6 says more demonstrations have been staged in universities and institutes "to protest the exclusion of thousands of candidates of political inclinations, especially the Islamists, from student elections." The report accuses university administrations of deleting the names of scores of Islamists from election lists and speaks of arrests, dismissals, and security raids at several educational facilities.

Tunisian Islamic Leader Condemns Recognition of Israel

The paper publishes on page 8 a 400-word undated statement issued by Shaykh Rashid al-Ghannouchi, leader of the Islamic Ennahda Movement in Tunisia, in which he condemns Tunisia's recognition of Israel. He says: "The disgraceful handshake and mutual recognition between the foreign minister of the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine and his counterpart the foreign minister of the police minority regime in Tunisia did not come as a surprise to anyone. It was a natural extension of the policy that has been pursued in Tunisia since 'independence,' and which got worse under the current government. This policy undermines Tunisia's Arab-Islamic identity and violently excludes people from government affairs." The statement contends that the Tunisian Government crackdown on the Islamic movement "was only a preparation for recognizing the Zionist entity and incorporating Tunisia in a Middle East market led by Israel." The statement urges the Tunisian people to resist "treasonous" projects and calls on the Tunisian elite forces to rearrange their relations with the regime "in light of the now very obvious organized scheme led by General Ben Ali; namely, to integrate Tunisia into international policies of containment that relinquish every sense of the country's political, economic, and cultural independence, violate people's freedoms and dignities, and conflict with the strategic interests of the Arab and Muslim nation."

Israel Said Behind Attempt To Kill Najib Mahfuz

A 400-word article by Safinaz Kazim on page 9 blames Israel and Zionism for the attempt to kill Egyptian Nobel Laureate Najib Mahfuz. The alleged Israeli attempt, the writer believes, is a challenge to Egyptian security that it is incompetent, and it entails an offer to provide Israeli security assistant and services. "I cannot imagine any Egyptian, Arab, or Islamic political group going so far as to decide to assassinate a writer or an intellectual. If such a group exists, then it is certainly penetrated by Israel and the international Zionist movement," Kazim writes.

Columnist Views U.S. Decision on Bosnia Embargo

In a 1,000-word article on page 8, columnist Tal'at Rumayh discusses the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina after "the important victories" scored by the Bosnian Muslims and touches on the American decision to stop reinforcing the ban on arms shipments to that country. The writer sees the American decision not as a support for the Bosnian Muslims, but as an attempt to "tame" the Serbs and pressure the Europeans. "The American decision is nothing more than an attempt to pressure the Serbs. It never said the United States would send arms to the Bosnian Army." The writer adds: "Through the decision, the United States once again wanted to show itself capable of imposing its position from inside and outside the UN Security Council. It is a message to Russia, after its position on Iraq, and also to the European allies."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Nov

NC2811102794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Prosecution Demands Death Sentence for 4 Fundamentalists
2. Mashhur Urges Muslims To Prevent Palestinian Civil War
3. Muslim Brotherhood Issues Statement on Gaza Clashes
4. Tension in Universities Follows Expulsions
5. Al-Ghazali on Writers Venting Their Hatred of Islam
6. Al-Hudaybi Replies to Accusations of Terrorism
7. Columnist Defends Shaykh al-Ghazali

Prosecution Demands Death Sentence for 4 Fundamentalists

A 60-word unattributed report carried within the "Newsreel" column on page 1 says the prosecution has demanded the death sentence for the four Muslim fundamentalist defendants accused of killing two Egyptians and a German tourist in the al-Ghardaqah resort.

Mashhur Urges Muslims To Prevent Palestinian Civil War

Mustafa Mashhur, in a 1,500-word article on page 6, views the plight of Arabs and Muslims at the hands of the "Zionist enemy backed by the might and arrogance of the United States," criticizing the failure of the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. He says he believes the Arab League should have worked to unite the Arab countries and their positions on world and Arab issues, strengthen ties with the Islamic countries, present Islamic civilization to the world with the help of the ICO, encourage and promote economic projects, and set up a common Arab market followed by an Islamic one. But, he adds, the Arab League has split up into blocs and each country is acting on its own to the extent that the Gulf states have ended their boycott of Israel without referring to the Arab League while the ICO has failed to take strong action on the Bosnian tragedy. He reviews the "series of Zionist schemes" that began with the expulsion of the Palestinians from their land in 1948, the 1967 war, the Camp David Agreement, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which, he notes, "was part of the Zionist-U.S. schemes" and resulted "in the signing of agreements between some Gulf states and the United States, Britain, and France to protect them from Saddam's Iraq." He adds that all this was followed by the Madrid conference, the secret Oslo talks, and the Gaza-Jericho Agreement "that turned the PLO into an organization for the protection of the enemy from resistance." He then says the Zionist enemy planned for inter-Palestinian fighting involving Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and al-Jihad and the Palestinian police, adding that the fighting did erupt following Friday prayers in Gaza.

Touching on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, he writes that Israel exploited it to divide the Mosque and take two-thirds, leaving only one-third for Muslims, adding that "they thus unfairly imposed partition. If they succeed in this and the Palestinians remain silent, then this could be repeated in the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, which they constantly claim to be Israel's eternal capital." He then labels the Casablanca economic summit as another part of the Zionist-U.S. scheme to impose the enemy's economic hegemony. Mashhur argues that the Palestinian issue does not concern only some Palestinians, but all Muslims, whose duty it is to liberate Palestine, Jerusalem, and the al-Aqsa Mosque and who should try to do so no matter how long it takes." He adds: "The Islamic governments must review their positions on these Islamic issues, respond to their peoples' demands to apply the Islamic creed that is their religion, remove any differences between them, and lay down plans to counter the enemy schemes so as to restore the Islamic nation's status as the best of peoples who have evolved for mankind and spread Islamic civilization to people everywhere. The Islamic governments must intervene to prevent civil war in Palestine or to prevent this tragedy from being repeated."

Muslim Brotherhood Issues Statement on Gaza Clashes

A 500-word statement by the Muslim Brotherhood on the Gaza clashes is published on page 6.

Tension in Universities Follows Expulsions

An unattributed 220-word report on page 6 says that tension prevails in the al-Minufiyah and 'Ayn Shams Universities following the students council elections there. It says the al-Munifiyah University College of Commerce dean canceled the elections after the Islamic trend won and ordered that they be held on a Saturday. But five candidates were expelled for two weeks on that day and the dean formed a students council from six students. Another six students were expelled for rejecting the dean's order banning prayers inside the college. In 'Ayn Shams University, the College of Literature students demonstrated when a students council was appointed and six students were consequently expelled.

Al-Ghazali on Writers Venting Their Hatred of Islam

In 300 words in his regular column on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali lashes out at what he calls the atheist and infidel writers who spare no effort to attack religion and help the cultural invasion of the Arab world. He contends: "I know there are infidels on earth, there are believers, people who advocate goodness, and people who advocate evil but I have never seen middlemen for blasphemy more damaging than these." He criticizes the writers for insisting on publishing the novel "Children of Gabalawi" in spite of the author's objections. He adds that it is not they who should be blamed, but those who enabled them to do so, who forced people to hear their views, and who gave them the license to publish newspapers to vent their hatred of Islam.

Al-Hudaybi Replies to Accusations of Terrorism

The paper carries on page 12 an approximately 1,500-word article by Counselor Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi rebutting claims leveled by Tharwat Abazah published in AL-AHRAM on 7 November accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of terrorism.

Columnist Defends Shaykh al-Ghazali

A 600-word article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus on page 12 defends Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali against attacks on him by fundamentalists and secularists. He says the secularists accuse him of sanctioning the murder of writer Faraj Fudah and of being behind al-Azhar's ban on the publication of the "Children of Gabalawi" while the fundamentalists accuse him of being lax and moderate. He adds that these attacks make it evident that "he is proceeding along the true path of Islam and these two fronts, which never agree on anything, stand together against this respected scholar who represents the conscience of the nation, which believes that moderation is the best course."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 22 Nov

NC2711201294

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. NDP Religious Committee Defines Role Among Students, Workers
2. Islamic Research Council Calls For Banning Book
3. Al-Azhar Rector Warns Against Religious Fanaticism
4. Awqaf Minister Approves Printing Books for Chinese Muslims
5. Writer Praises Ulema's Aid to Flood Victims
6. Islamic Scholar Views Consultation, Opposition In Islam

NDP Religious Committee Defines Role Among Students, Workers

The paper publishes on page 2 a 250-word report noting that at its first meeting after formation the new members of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] Religious Committee emphasized that their role will focus on "projecting the brilliant image" of Islam and "merging" with the youths in schools and universities through cultural symposiums and open dialogues to establish organized thinking of the role of religion and the need to confront subversive ideas. Mansur al-Rifa'i, Awqaf Ministry under secretary and member of the committee, stressed the need to establish a presence among workers throughout Egypt to enhance the same role. He stated that the committee should highlight Islam's call for peace, love, and cooperation. Dr. Mani' Mahmud underscored the need to exploit television to propagate an enlightened and strong spirit of Islam. Dr. Muhammad Salim, Awqaf Ministry official and committee member, highlighted the need to draw up a unified plan on the level of the country and organize meetings with other committees and with Christian leaderships to explain views on various issues that concern the nation.

Islamic Research Council Calls For Banning Book

A 100-word report on the same page notes that the Islamic Research Council released a statement calling for a ban on the book "Turbans and Daggers" on the "disaster" of religious extremism in Egypt, written by a secular writer. The statement said that the book assails Islamic ulema "disgracefully and obscenely." The report says that the writer purports to address the phenomenon of extremism in Egypt, but he uses this pretext to attack the symbols of Islamic propagation. Furthermore, the report continues, he does not discuss the causes of extremism and ways of emerging from this predicament. The council is said to stress that the book is primarily aimed at inciting pious youths against the state and ulemas.

Al-Azhar Rector Warns Against Religious Fanaticism

An 80-word report on the same page notes that al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haq, opening a course for preachers of the Islamic world, warned against religious fanaticism, saying it constitutes "a call for sowing division within the Islamic nation." The report says he stresses in his talk that Islam does not condone fanaticism and bigotry. Islam, he affirms, calls for peace with God, family, and the society. He says that the courses organized by al-Azhar aim to explain Islam's true teachings so that preachers can correct concepts among their peoples.

Awqaf Minister Approves Printing Books for Chinese Muslims

A 100-word report on the same page says that Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has approved the translation into Chinese and the printing of three books published by the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs on Islam's worship rites, women's rights in Islam, and moderation of Islam. The aim is to distribute them to Muslims in the PRC.

Writer Praises Ulema's Assistance to Flood Victims

In his 500-word column "With All Frankness" on page 6, Basyuni al-Halawani praises the ulema convoy's visit, led by al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haq and Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub to the flood-stricken areas in Upper Egypt. He notes that the Islamic ulema's visit came at the appropriate time because they provided much-needed direct relief from the funds of Muslims to the deserving victims of floods apart from government bureaucracy. He says more humanitarian stands and positive decisions are needed to bolster the bridges of confidence among all factions of the people and the religious establishments. He says when these religious establishments regain lost ground, they will bring about benefits to Egypt and its people.

Islamic Scholar Views Consultation, Opposition in Islam

Prominent Islamic Scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, in a 1,000-word article on page 6, discusses consultation, shura, and opposition in Islam. He argues that shura is a great Islamic principle but that ways of applying it have not materialized. He says that what is important is not what type of shura to follow but to "secure the guarantees and methods that make it an established fact" in the society so that "despotic rulers and political idols will vanish" and sound views may prevail and the right men may take the right places. He maintains that it is impossible to establish shura in the absence of religious tenets and ethics. He notes that the Islamic world introduced patterns of Western democracy in a decadent stage of its history, deceived by colonialist traditions. He says that the defects of modern democracy will vanish when a government enshrines in its Constitution that "Islam is the state religion and that shari'ah is the sole source of laws." He says: "We demand shura and want the means conducive to it to become an individual duty."

Discussing opposition, al-Ghazali gives several examples from Islamic history demonstrating that the caliphates condoned peaceful and objective opposition. He calls for elucidating the differences between legitimate opposition and anarchy and between required criticism and armed rebellion.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Criticizes Israeli 'Slowness' on Peace

JN2611180494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian National Authority, has criticized the slowness of the peace process in the Middle East.

In statements published today by the Spanish paper EL PAIS, his excellency said that this is due to Israel's procrastination in implementing the principles of the peace agreement in the occupied West Bank and also in holding the Palestinian legislative elections whose date has not yet been set.

His excellency told the paper: I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic, but, up until now, what was agreed upon has not yet been implemented.

'Arafat Says 'We Can Maintain Law and Order'

BR2811142494 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 26 Nov 94 p 4

[Interview with Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat by "G.H." in Oviedo, Spain on 24 November: "Afraid? You Are Talking to Arafat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oviedo—"Do you see how things have changed between us?" one of Yasir 'Arafat's counselors said when, in the middle of this interview held in the Palestinian leader's room, [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhak Rabin called at the door to say goodbye to his new "companion" in the same struggle. Arafat, 65, seemed pleased with the international recognition received in Oviedo, but behind his smile, behind his almost monosyllabic replies, one could sense the tension caused by the recent disturbances in Gaza, which cost 14 people their lives. The Palestinian National Authority president's wish to give his people the protective shield of a state is being checked by events and, with each passing day, he is feeling increasingly trapped between the Hamas sword and the Israel wall.

[G.H.] Our last conversation took place in Tunisia last March. You are now living already on Palestinian soil. Can we be optimistic about the peace process in the Middle East?

['Arafat] Neither optimistic nor pessimistic. We must be realistic and consider the facts. I am sorry to say that the peace process is very slow.

[G.H.] Why?

['Arafat] Because what was agreed is not being implemented. I was supposed to have taken charge of the West Bank's self-government six months ago, but my authority is still limited to Gaza and Jericho. Secondly, though no less importantly, elections in Palestine should have been held last July, but we are now in November and we still do not know when they will be called.

[G.H.] According to Rabin, you have accepted to include both the election issue and the issue of security in the West Bank in the same negotiation package, but developments in Gaza are showing an inability to make any progress in this field.

['Arafat] We have shown the whole world that we can maintain law and order.

[G.H.] Do you believe the greatest threat to the peace process comes from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad?

['Arafat] Not only from Arab fanatics, but also from Israeli ones. We must not forget the Hebron mosque massacre (29 people killed by a Jewish settler in February—EL PAIS editor's note). It is extremists on both sides who are trying to destroy the peace process. This is why we must make every effort to further it, to show our peoples, both the Palestinians and the Israelis, that despite such fanatics we are prepared to make the peace of the courageous.

[G.H.] What role does Iran play in all this?

['Arafat] The Iranian leaders have themelves revealed the fact that they are meddling in our business.

[G.H.] Do you hold Iran responsible for the Gaza disturbances eight days ago?

['Arafat] It is Iran which is financing, training, and instructing the radical integrationists.

[G.H.] Are you prepared to discuss the peace process with Iran, requesting it to limit its influence, or do you prefer to negotiate with Hamas?

['Arafat] I have nothing to discuss with Iran and, as far as Hamas is concerned, my movement, Al Fatah, has already started negotiations.

[G.H.] You will not negotiate ditectly with Hamas?

['Arafat] No. Al Fatah will conduct the negotiations. I am the national authority for all Palestinians.

[G.H.] Will Hamas be able to take part in the elections which you so much wish to hold?

['Arafat] If they show their commitment to the peace process and form a political party, of course yes. They have themselves said that Hamas, as such, will not take part, but one of their leaders has announced that they will form a party.

[G.H.] What have you achieved during this private meeting with Rabin in Oviedo?

['Arafat] We have had a very positive exchange. This was a follow-up to our meeting in Eretz (border locality between Gaza and Israel - El PAIS editor's note) early in the month, and it will pave the way for the negotiations beginning next Monday between the Arab and Israeli delegations.

[G.H.] Hamas has planned another demonstration for tomorrow (that is, yesterday - El PAIS editor's note)...

['Arafat] No, it is a memorial for one of its leaders who was assassinated by Israel, and we have authorized it.

[G.H.] But it is now also a week since the Gaza disturbances took place. Are you not afraid that...?

['Arafat] Afraid? Did you say afraid? What does afraid mean? You are talking to 'Arafat, and if you mention fear that means you do not know anything about me. Never speak of fear in front of me. I take things into account, but that is all.

[G.H.] How can the integrationists be curbed or made to join the peace process?

['Arafat] I cannot convince anybody who is against the peace process. Peace strengthens our people's security, and the majority of our people are in favor of peace.

[G.H.] But the integrationists's ranks are swelling alarmingly, and they creating a dangerous situation.

['Arafat] This is not suprising. We expected this to happen.

[G.H.] Do you mean to say that you expected Hamas and the Islamic Jihad to become stronger?

['Arafat] I have not said that. I have not spoken of strength. I said we expected them to create problems. But let us change subject.

[G.H.] O.K. Will you be traveling to Brussels next week for the meeting with the countries that have pledged to help the Palestinians with their economy?

['Arafat] I have not yet decided.

[G.H.] You are accusing the donor countries of not providing the promised help, and they are accusing you of not submitting the projects for which their help is intended.

['Arafat] Even President Bill Clintom said recently that he regretted having delayed help to Palestine. Besides, if they do not want to give us the money directly, why do they not give it to the international organizations working in the region? All our infrastructures have been destroyed by the Israeli occupation, and we now have to start from scratch. How can anybody say that there are no projects? Everything is still to be done: water supplies, electrical power, telecommunications, ports, roads, schools, hospitals. Who said there are no projects? Come to Palestine. Let everyone come and see with their hearts how a country must be rebuilt.

'Arafat 'Angered' by Fatah Committee Statement

MM2811162294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Angered by Fatah Central Committee's Statement; Committee's Members Abroad Opposed to Confrontation With Hamas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah Central Committee sources have revealed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was angered by the statement issued by the committee three days ago on Gaza's bloody Friday.

The sources emphasized that the Central Committee's statement contradicted the statement issued by Fatah inside [the territories] which was distributed immediately after the incidents.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President 'Arafat saw the [Central Committee's] statement as a qualitative stand and a departure from the customary practice in such circumstances, and as a challenge to him by the seven committee members living abroad who met in Tunis last Sunday.

They added that 'Arafat also saw the Central Committee's statement as a reply to and repudiation of Fatah's internal statement which openly exonerated 'Arafat and said he was not to blame for Friday's [18 November] tragic incidents.

Fatah Central Committee sources said "Arafat's call to the Fatah cadres and the staging of popular demonstrations in Gaza on Monday [21 November] and in Jericho yesterday were a part of 'Arafat's attempts to demonstrate that he still had the initiative as far as Fatah was concerned."

That also explains his invitation to the Fatah Central Committee members at home, namely al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Umm-Jihad, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Faysal al-Husayni, Nabil Sha'th, Zakariya al-Agha, and 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, as well as Fatah's local members, to a meeting to discuss the situation, particularly bearing in mind the confusion regarding the question of Fatah's elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The results of these elections have come contrary to expectations, especially in Ramallah, prompting 'Arafat to cancel them or try to cancel them and stop the elections in other areas. That remains a point of controversy with supporters and opponents within the movement.

According to Fatah sources, 'Arafat is now moving with all his strength to reaffirm his control of Fatah, in doing so exploiting the challenge from Hamas in Gaza. He has portrayed that challenge as a challenge to the entire Fatah movement and not just Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] or the Palestinian Authority [PA]. 'Arafat said this in his address to the Fatah masses in Gaza, urging them to be always alert and ready to meet the challenges to Fatah, mainly from Hamas.

Fatah Central Committee Member Sakhr Habash, however, declared from Tunis on the eve of that gathering that the Central Committee's seven members [abroad] had a right to meet and responsibly express an opinion regarding Palestinian developments, especially after what had happened and the point reached.

Habash said that Fatah is not the only party in the arena and that the PA should rectify its course, build popular institutions, and put the right man in the right place. He added that Fatah is not about to have a confrontation with Hamas or the Islamic Jihad Movement, because they are all in the same trench.

'Arafat's Political Adviser on Peace Process

JN2311214394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Statement by Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's political adviser, to Qol Yisra'el correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tibi] We are continuing our relentless efforts to calm things down and work out an understanding. We are not talking about a written agreement between the Islamic movements and the national authority; we just want all the parties to reach an understanding. Meetings are being held with brother president [Yasir 'Arafat] and members of the national authority, as well as with brothers in Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. We will have talks with brothers in the Hamas movement leadership to narrow differences. I feel differences are being bridged. There is a sincere desire on the part of all sides to calm things down and achieve tranquility that ensures peace of mind for all sides. All our people want this phase to pass peacefully.

PA Receives $8.5 Million in Taxes From Israel

NC2311154194 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 23 (AFP)—Israel on Wednesday [23 November] handed over 8.5 million dollars in taxes due to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority [PA], the finance ministry said.

"These funds were raised through taxes on imports for Palestinians in the autonomous areas, mainly fuel, and have been handed over in line with the economic accords signed with the PLO in April in Paris," he told AFP.

Two weeks ago the Israeli Treasury transferred just over 3.5 million dollars to the self-rule authority.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Sunday after the weekly cabinet meeting that tax repayments would be brought forward to help the authority, following clashes in autonomous Gaza City which killed 16 people.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Monday when he called on the donor countries to fulfill their pledges of aid to the authority.

Terje Larsen, UN special coordinator in the territories, said Tuesday that only 140 million dollars of the 700 million dollars pledged to back self-rule in 1994 had so far been contributed.

He has warned that living standards for Palestinians in Gaza had dropped by half since the September 1993 Declaration of Principles on autonomy, saying poverty was to blame for much of the violence in the Strip.

Donor countries are to meet in Brussels on November 29 and 30.

Agreement To Prevent Clashes; Sha'th Interviewed

NC2411070194 Paris AFP in English 2355 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 24 (AFP)—Israeli Arab and Palestinian officials said Wednesday [23 November] they had brokered an agreement between the Palestinian self-rule authority and Islamic opposition groups to prevent further clashes.

Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to authority head Yasir 'Arafat, and Abdallah Nimr Darwish, an Israeli Arab Islamic leader, agreed with "all Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process on the necessity to prevent any provocation and armed demonstrations in the streets."

The agreement was announced in a statement at the end of a mediation committee meeting set up after clashes between Palestinian police and Muslim fundamentalists left 16 people dead in Gaza City last Friday.

The parties agreed to "allow public meetings and demonstrations after authorisation, and prevent the publication of statements and declarations implying threats or insults," the statement said.

They also agreed on the "right of all to express their views (when) they do not affect individuals or groups," said the statement, which was signed by the two men.

Al-Tibi told AFP that a "general national dialogue" would take place in coming days.

In Cairo, Thursday's edition of the semi-official newspaper AL-AHRAM quoted Palestinian "minister" of international cooperation Nabil Sha'th as saying in an interview that elections for a council to rule the autonomous areas must be held quickly to face increasing violence there.

"It will be in the Palestinians' benefit to hold elections quickly so the opposition can channel its efforts in a democratic way," Sha'th told the paper.

Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over terms for the election process have been suspended since last October. They are due to resume here November 29.

Sha'th also called on Palestinian leaders who boycotted the first meeting of the Palestinian executive committee in Gaza November 16 to "rally around the Palestinian leadership and support it."

Only eight out of its 18 members attended the meeting, highlighting PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's fragile support within his own organization.

The opponents argued that the meeting was premature because Israel had not yet withdrawn from all Palestinian territory.

"I hope that dialogue with those who did not attend the last meeting can solve," the differences, Sha'th said adding that the committee would convene next in its traditional meeting place of Tunis.

'Arafat also called Wednesday for elections to be held as soon as possible, saying the Palestinian Authority was committed to democracy and a multi-party system.

"It must be clear to everyone that we are in favour of democracy and pluralism and we insist on the need to hold elections as early as possible," he told journalists.

"Everyone will have the right to express their opinion for these elections" for a self-rule council, 'Arafat said.

According to a poll published in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, 'Arafat would win an election to head the council with 44 percent of the vote if such polls were held immediately.

But the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has seen its popularity leap in the past two months from 10 to 17.4 percent, compared to 42 percent for 'Arafat's Fatah faction.

Sha'th Cited on Gaza Incidents, EU Aid, Conference

JN2411170694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1549 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, in Stockholm, Sweden, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio; from the "With the Events" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: You are on a mission to raise funds and aid for the Palestinian Authority. Have you managed to convince the European states to release such funds?

[Sha'th] As a matter of fact, I was in Brussels first. At present, I am in Stockholm, from where I will head for London. I will return to Brussels on Monday [28 November]. The main objective of my tour is to encourage donor nations to quickly release funds so that they may be used to launch public projects. We want to launch projects that would provide jobs for the largest possible number of workers, given the hard circumstances we are experiencing. This tour is also aimed at ensuring support for the Palestinian Authority, and creating the proper circumstances for promoting private investment in order to create jobs in the Palestinian lands. I believe the response has been good. Nonetheless, I would like to note that we received big promises in the past. This time, I hope that these promises will be honored soon.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: On the eve of the convening of the donors conference in Brussels, the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the implementation of the next stage of the autonomy agreement in the remaining parts of the West Bank will begin. What is on the agenda of these negotiations?

[Sha'th] As a matter of fact, the Palestinians and Israelis have agreed to move the venue of the talks on the West Bank and elections to Brussels so that the political negotiations on the continuation of the political process and the negotiations on continued financial aid may be held in the same venue and on the highest levels in Brussels, the capital of the European Union. Given all this, our day, next Monday, will be a momentous day for us. For, on that day, President 'Arafat will meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Moreover, the Palestinian delegation will meet with the Israeli delegation on that day. Also, the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will meet with the Ministerial Council of the European Union, which will meet at the foreign ministers' level in Brussels on that day. Afterward, there will be a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and EC President Delors. All this activity will take place in Brussels on Monday.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Nabil: At this time, Rabin and 'Arafat are receiving the Prince of Asturias peace prizes. As for 'Arafat, he has held Iran responsible for the events that took place in Gaza last Friday [18 November].

[Sha'th] I believe that we have to be fully vigilant about the activities of third parties that could have played roles. As a matter of fact, some of the incidents witnessed last Friday are hard to explain except when we thoroughly examine the roles of third parties. I believe that the fact-finding mission and the judicial committee that will examine all the video films taped on Friday, when the painful incidents took place, will be in a position to reveal further information on the possible involvement of third parties in these incidents. Iran might be one of these parties.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th in the Swedish capital of Stockholm: Thank you very much.

[Sha'th] You are most welcome.

'Urayqat Says PA-Hamas Dialogue Continuing

TA2611152694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] says the dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is continuing. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a PA leader, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem after the PA's weekly meeting that there is a difference between pluralism of parties and pluralism of authorities and that there cannot be more than one PA. At its meeting, the PA also discussed the holding of elections in the territories and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank.

'Urayqat on Implementation of Provisional Agreement

BR2811152694 Paris LE MONDE in French 27-28 Nov 94 p 5

[Report on interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Palestinian Council member for local authorities, by Mouna Naim in Paris; date not given: "Elections in West Bank and Gaza Would Be Breath of Fresh Air for Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian "minister" for local authorities, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, was in Paris recently as the guest of the Council of Europe to examine the organization of elections in the West Bank and Gaza. The Council is the Palestinians' main "partner" in preparing for this poll, which initially had been scheduled for 14 July 1995, but which has been constantly pushed back.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat is sounding the alarm and warns against the slowness of the peace process which he believes was directly responsible for the bloody confrontations between Palestinians on Friday, 18 November. He warns that if nothing urgent is done, "what happened at Gaza will only be the start."

Since Gaza and Jericho obtained their autonomous status on 4 May, nothing has been done, he said. He stressed: "The Israelis have not entered into talks about redeploying their forces outside of the residential zones" of the West Bank. Civilian powers have not been transferred to the Palestinians. As a result, the elections have been postponed again, even though they lie "at the very heart" of the agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

"We have tirelessly repeated that just the Gaza-Jericho option on its own could not last and that we had to move on immediately to the next phase, that is, to the application of the provisional agreement" (to the whole of the West Bank and Gaza). This has not been the case. Mr. 'Urayqat notes: "The Israelis are continuing to increase the size of the settlements and to confiscate our lands. They still behave like occupiers. The military barricades are still there" and there are still clashes with the population.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat has no problem explaining last week's events in Gaza: "When the Israelis cordon off Gaza and deprive thousands of workers of a living in Israel, when they prevent the population of Gaza from visiting the West Bank and vice versa, and when the donor countries do not keep their fabulous promises, then of course the Palestinian Authority is weakened and the peace process loses its credibility in the eyes of the Palestinians."

Tired Population

Although this is a very convincing plea, does Mr. 'Urayqat maintain that the Palestinians are completely blameless in the current situation? He admits that some policemen may have panicked and opened fire on Friday, but said that the commission of inquiry had to be left to do its job because things might not be as clear-cut as they appear. What is really important, he believes, is to clearly identify the reasons why the whole population, and not just the Islamists, have had enough. "Surprised" and almost indignant when he heard that the Israelis will be putting pressure on the aid-giving countries for them to unfreeze their aid to the Palestinians, he says: "All we ask the Israelis to do is respect the agreement that was signed between us." As for the suspicions of the donor countries on the reliability of the Palestinian governing bodies, these are no longer acceptable.

Mr. 'Urayqat said that the Palestinian Authority has been saying for months that it will not place any conditions on projects in the autonomous territories. He stated that if any country wants to act via the UN development program or any other body, it does not matter as long as they go ahead and actually do something. At the end of 1993, donor countries promised the Palestinian Authority $2.4 billion spread over five years. UN officials report that only $200 million of the $700 million planned for 1994 have been distributed and these funds have been spent mainly on wages of functionaries and day-to-day expenditure.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat said: "We need Europe. If the Europeans really are concerned about safeguarding the peace process, they must work in two directions: toward the United States, which continues to treat Israel like a state that is above the law, and toward Israel itself, to make it apply the terms of the provisional agreement." He insists: "The peace process is really in danger. If there is no progress in relations between Israel and the Palestinians, everything will be up in the air again."

Like all Palestinians, the "minister" is convinced that establishing a 100-member council elected by universal suffrage and a "president," also elected in a direct poll, would constitute a breath of fresh air for the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian Official on Gaza Incidents, Detainees

JN2311201194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1521 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Presidency, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza on 23 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, good evening.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Today Jericho witnessed a huge celebration; a celebration for renewing confidence in the symbol leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the Palestinian Authority. How do you assess this national celebration?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Undoubtedly, Monday's [21 November] huge demonstration in Gaza, those we heard about today in Jericho and in other West Bank cities, and the demonstrations in Nabulus, Tulrkarm, and elsewhere all represent a popular referendum and renewal of confidence in the Palestinian National Authority, the PLO, the legitimate leadership, and the brother president. All of this is a kind of answer to all foreign interference which tries to tamper with our national arena under several bright and false slogans aimed to undermine the civilized image of the Palestinian people, undermine their unity, morals, and the traditions on which they have been raised. These traditions say that there should be no fighting among the Palestinians, and that democracy is our path, and pluralism in our march, and preserving the security of citizens is our principle. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, would you reassure the listeners about the situation in Gaza today.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Since last Saturday [19 November] and following Friday's incidents, the situation has been calm and life is normal in Gaza. There is mediation, dialogue, and discussion, and there is an insistence by all to return to our traditions and our democracy, and to reject any form of infighting and any sort of undermining the prestige of the authority. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Are there still detainees following the strife incidents?

['Abd-al-Rahim] There is only one, Muhammad Abu-Shammalah, from Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. Let me be frank with you, he is charged with the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Yusri al-Hant. When the brothers in Hamas demanded his release, we told them that we are ready to free him on the condition that the al-Hant family accepts this, and that a paper be brought from that family regarding this acceptance. However, he should face justice when his trial begins. He is the only detainee. I think he may be released today or tomorrow. There are no Hamas detainees in the prisons of the Palestinian Authority. There are detainees from the Islamic Jihad Movement. They were arrested not because they demonstrated while wearing coffins [coffins depicted on white clothing] or just because they opened fire in the air, but because they cut telephone cables, destroyed public and private property, cut electricity wires, and destroyed electricity poles. It is not a political issue but a criminal one. There are four detainees of the subversive and terrorist group Abu-Nidal who tried to carry out terrorist actions and were arrested. There is only one detainee from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine who was arrested on criminal charges and not for political reasons, and there are no detainees from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

[Correspondent] And the expression of opinion is guaranteed for all.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Certainly, they can issue statements. They criticize the brother symbol leader who says: This is our democracy, let them say what they want. They issue daily statements which contain forgeries of facts. Nevertheless, no one prevents them from doing so. I want to say something, today [Hamas leader] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar went to Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali and asked to organize a rally. Al-Jabali agreed to this. Al-Zahhar promised that the rally would not turn into a march.

[Correspondent] Are these are good signs for entrenching the National Authority?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Of course. This homeland is for all Palestinians, on the condition that they believe in real democracy and real pluralism—democracy and pluralism that have principles. As for the confusion which they describe as democracy, it is rejected. Destroying public property and attacking citizens is rejected. The Palestinian national security forces are security forces for all Palestinian people, and not for one faction.

[Correspondent] Do the Palestinian security men have strict orders not to open fire on anyone?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Certainly, the Palestinian security men were asked to protect the rally that was held in memory of martyr 'Imad 'Aql [Hamas member killed by Israeli forces in Gaza last year].

[Correspondent] It is clear from the incidents and the investigations that there was a third party. The existence of this third party was made clear through the use of bullets which the National Authority does not possess. Is there an agreement and contacts among all political forces to deal with this third party?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yes, undoubtedly there is a group among us which tries to incite strife and escalate it. We are vigilant and alert, and the Palestinian security forces arrested some members of that group. As you know, we do not have dumdum, plastic, or rubber bullets. Many of those injured have been injured by these kinds of bullets. We are not a repressive police. Let us leave this subject for investigators so that we can speak in a responsible and realistic manner because we have many things to reveal. The information which we have will surprise many people.

[Correspondent] Let us wait for the results of the investigation committees. Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, thank you for your participation.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you.

Council of Ministers Meets, Discusses Events

JN2611175394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA], today chaired a weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers of the NA. His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat briefed the council on all the recent contacts held to bolster Palestinian national unity on the ground. He asserted that the NA was eager to maintain political pluralism and democracy under the canopy of a unified NA. His Excellency President 'Arafat pointed out that certain foreign forces were trying to disturb stability and security in the NA areas. He said: Iran's role in this issue has been exposed by the statements of Mohtashemi, official in charge of the so-called Iranian revolutionary action in the world; by the extension of most Iranian aid—amounting to $30 million—to the Palestinian arena; by certain foreign forces who are trying to ignite a civil war; and by the suspected dialogue certain leaders are holding in certain capitals.

The council hailed the position of the Palestinian masses and the Fatah Movement, which are confronting the conspiracy and curbing the liars and the conspirators. It pointed out that the information the NA has confirms that the recent incidents were deliberately planned in order to spread disturbances, to abort the achievements our Palestinian people have made through their long struggle, and to create a vacuum in the Palestinian arena to pave the way for confusion and foreign interference. It added that the plot still exists with some conspiring forces abroad.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said that during its meeting, the Council of Ministers resumed discussions on developments from the Friday incidents in Gaza, as well as measures to ensure security and safety for every citizen in the homeland in a democratic atmosphere in which every citizen enjoys freedom and stability.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim asserted that the council would not allow the existence of multiple authorities in the NA areas and that the NA is the leadership, which the Palestinians have created through their struggle and around which they rally to achieve their aspirations.

The Council of Ministers also voiced its astonishment over some Arab media organs support for instigators against the authority, just as the Israeli media are doing.

The Council of Ministers urged the judiciary committee to achieve results as soon as possible to enable the Palestinian masses to understand all the facts. The same applies to the fact-finding commission.

The council then praised the masses' national position, their vigilance, and their confrontation of the conspiratorial, destructive plans. It also praised the self-restraint the Palestinian security and police forces have showed, particularly when the NA headquarters were attacked. The council also urged the Ministry of Awqaf to take over its full responsibility and prevent mosques in all areas from being used to instigate problems and create confusion. The council also stressed the need to transfer the rest of authorities to the Palestinian side.

The Council of Ministers reviewed the results of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin in Spain, describing it as a fruitful meeting during which Rabin stressed that the NA will assume responsibility for health and taxes this Monday, and that this has nothing to do with the donor countries' stand.

On the forthcoming Brussels meeting, the presidency's secretary general said that there are two meetings; one for the donor countries and the other for the negotiations on the transition stage. The council stressed the need to initiate the negotiations on the transition stage in Brussels, which will later be moved to Cairo. The council also called on the donor countries to fulfill their obligations to the Palestinian people to enable them to establish their infrastructure and end their tribulations.

The Council of Ministers said there can be no peace in the region without ending the Palestinian people's tribulations and beginning the process of construction.

The council listened to a report submitted by Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat on the meeting of the political committee of the Council of Europe in which the Palestinian side participated. Dr. 'Urayqat said that the European political committee held a special working session with the Palestinian committee on elections which submitted its views on Palestinian elections, the European partnership, and the results of the negotiations. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat explained the recommendation made by the political committee of the Council of Europe, the most prominent being a recommendation to support the agreements signed between the European Union and the NA, to continue to offer European assistance in all forms, and to support Palestinian political elections to the Palestinian Council as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles after the redeployment of the Israeli forces and the review of past Israeli laws.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Council of Ministers approved the agreement that was signed between the Local Government Ministry and the Federation of French Cities. Under the agreement, the first stage covers cooperation among 25 French municipalities and 25 Palestinian counterparts. The presidency's secretary general added that the council studied a report by Economy and Trade Minister Ahmad Quray' on Palestine's participation in the Board of Governors of the International Islamic Bank where he explained the Palestinian stand and the contacts the Palestinian delegation had held with the other delegations, as well as his meeting with the Saudi finance minister. The delegation reviewed with all these delegations the Palestinian economic situation and what Jerusalem experiences. The Saudi side expressed great interest in the projects pertaining to Jerusalem. The Palestinian delegation also discussed several projects with the president of the International Islamic Bank.

The local government minister submitted to the Council of Ministers two draft bills: the first on amending the financial system in local government, and second on the structure of local government in Palestine. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the draft of the second bill will be discussed at the next Council of Ministers meeting.

Authority To See Hamas as 'Negotiating Partner'

NC2711150394 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 27 Nov 94

[By Najlah Sammakiyah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 27 (AFP)—The Palestinian self-rule authority on Sunday [27 November] began to consider Islamic militants as a serious negotiating partner after Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] staged a peaceful rally of 12,000 people.

"The authority has been trying to hold a dialogue with Hamas for a while now. But there were obstacles," said Ahmad al-Tibi, an advisor to the chairman of the self-rule authority, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

"Now it's not so much the large number of (rally) participants that puts them in a position to negotiate, but the political situation here and the fact that they controlled themselves," al-Tibi said.

Speakers at Saturday's rally, which came eight days after violence between Palestinian police and Hamas left 12 people dead and 200 wounded, were careful to turn their wrath against Israel alone.

Hamas leader Ahmad Nimr told the crowd that the movement's armed wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, would not attack Palestinian policemen.

"Izz-al-Din al-Qassam respects the orders of the political parties not to open fire because our bullets are reserved for our enemies."

Such statements and the fact that no guns were fired are bound to change the image of the radical group and drive home its importance as a negotiating partner.

Hamas leader 'Imad Faluji told AFP he expected future political life with the PLO to center on "serious talks, and the right of every faction according to its real representation on the ground."

A recent poll by a Palestinian center in the West Bank and Gaza showed 42 percent supporting 'Arafat's Fatah, and 17.4 percent supporting Hamas. Other opposition groups scored less.

The PLO has often begun talks with Hamas leaders, and 'Arafat has appointed a few of its members to important positions such as judge of Islamic courts. But relations have been hampered by Hamas attacks against Israel by Gaza militants, or against Jewish settlers and Israeli soldiers on the Strip.

With each attack, Israel reminded 'Arafat of his commitment to prevent such acts in areas under his control, and the Palestinian police reacted swiftly by detaining Hamas activists, at least temporarily.

At present, four Hamas activists remain in Palestinian jails, down from scores held in October after the group kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

"If the Palestinian authority succeeds in dismantling the settlements through peaceful means, fine," Faluji said.

"But, if they fail the only alternative will be the armed method," he said while specifying "Hamas was not promising an end to its attacks, but calls on the authority to dismantle the settlements."

'Arafat's troubles with the radical group exploded on November 18 when Palestinian police clashed with Hamas supporters in Gaza City.

Arab-Israelis who acted as mediators later succeeded in negotiating a truce between the PLO and Hamas, which endured the rally.

"We're very pleased with it," said Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's spokesman. "Everybody who participated acted very responsibly.

"The idea was to have law and order, we did not want to provoke anyone," he said. He added that Fatah members also attended the event.

Members of other opposition factions also were present and had the same message not to attack the self-rule agreement with Israel.

"We agree with Hamas on certain points," said 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Jayyab, a prominent member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a leftist PLO faction.

"The rally was an expression in favor of our stand, together with Hamas and other opposition groups against the self-rule agreement."

Some, like Jamal Nasr of FIDA, a PLO faction close to Fatah, were less impressed.

But, he said the event "gave the message that we are one people."

FIDA Calls Meeting on Withdrawal From PA

TA2811171994 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 28 Nov 94 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah—'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, member of the PLO Central Council and member of the FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union Party] Executive Bureau, has confirmed reports that have circulated in recent days in national circles about the existence of an intense internal discussion among the party's leadership on the need for and benefit of withdrawing from the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He pointed out that during the past week FIDA's center had received several letters, including ones signed by leading figures inside and outside the homeland, calling for a reassessment of the party's stance regarding participation in the PA in light of Friday's [28 November] bloody events in Gaza.

'Abd-al-Latif noted that FIDA's leadership is going to convene an extraordinary meeting within the next few days to discuss these letters and the entire national situation. He said that the party's expanded general secretariat might be called to an emergency meeting as soon as possible to assess the national situation during the past six months and determine the party's positions based upon its conclusions. 'Abd-al-Latif added: "FIDA's leadership is eager that the discussion about continued participation in or withdrawal from the PA be as extensive as possible. This discussion might continue until the convocation of FIDA's general conference in the middle of January."

PA Allows Papers' Distribution, Releases Activists

TA2811193794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] today released another seven Islamic Jihad activists who had been arrested after the suicide bomb attack at the Netzarim junction over two weeks ago. Palestinian sources noted that at the moment the PA is keeping only a handful of Islamic Jihad activists behind bars.

This afternoon the Palestinian police allowed the distribution in the Gaza Strip of three East Jerusalem newspapers whose distribution had been banned earlier this morning. The ban was imposed after the newspapers printed an interview with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Mahmud al-Zahhar and reported that the Hamas rally last Saturday [26 November] was attended by 70,000 demonstrators rather than the 5,000 reported by the Palestinian police.

Sources in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PA relayed a message to newspaper editors in East Jerusalem to the effect that they must coordinate sensitive reports pertaining to the relations between the PA and Hamas.

Hamas 'Not Planning To Take Part' in Elections

NC2311165594 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 23 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat called Wednesday [23 November] for elections to be held as soon as possible, saying the Palestinian Authority was committed to democracy and a multi-party system.

"It must be clear to everyone that we are in favour of democracy and pluralism and we insist on the need to hold elections as early as possible," he told journalists.

His comments followed last Friday's [18 November] clashes between the Palestinian police and hardline Islamic fundamentalists in Gaza City in which 16 people were killed and 200 wounded.

"Everyone will have the right to express their opinion for these elections" for a self-rule council, said 'Arafat.

According to a poll published in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, 'Arafat would win an election to head the council with 44 percent of the vote if such polls were held immediately.

But the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has seen its popularity leap in the past two months from 10 to 17.4 percent, compared to 42 percent for 'Arafat's Fatah faction.

Israel and the PLO are due to resume their talks on elections and an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank on November 29. The polls were originally scheduled for July.

Fatah, the main party in the PLO, on Wednesday accused Hamas of blocking an accord between the two groups because of its "negative attitude."

A Hamas leader, 'Imad Falluji, told AFP his group was "not planning to take part in political elections" which form part of the autonomy accords signed between Israel and the PLO.

"But on the other hand we are ready to take part in any poll about daily life," he added.

He said the Islamic militants "respect the Palestinian Authority" and were not looking for an open confrontation despite their total disagreement with its political line.

Hamas' Ghawshah Denies Dialogue With Israel

JN2511152094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
26 Nov-2 Dec 94 p 15

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by correspondents Jihad Abu-Baydar and 'Imad al-Dik in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Reports say Hamas has held a dialogue with the Israelis in Jordan. It that true?

[Ghawshah] There has never been any dialogue in Jordan between Hamas and the government of the Zionist entity. Moreover, we are careful not to be interviewed by Jewish journalists. There has been no dialogue between Hamas and the Zionist entity. Hamas rejects dialogue and negotiations and refuses to recognize the state of the Israeli enemy. However, officers from the occupation army and Zionist academicians have interviewed Hamas leaders in prisons. A prisoner usually has no specific position. Everybody knows that Hamas is ready to halt operations against Jewish civilians if Rabin stops his daily operations against Palestinian civilians. Following the abduction of Israeli soldier Wachsman, Hamas tried to contact the Israeli Government through the International Committee of the Red Cross and offered to release Wachsman in return for the release of Palestinian prisoners. Our people know that was the only time we held a so-called dialogue with Israelis.

[Correspondent] Israel and 'Arafat say the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan is a cover for Hamas. How do you view this accusation?

[Ghawshah] It is 'Arafat who ties to accuse Jordan of that and says the Muslim Brotherhood is Hamas' term of reference. We say Hamas exists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in terms of organization and planning, that Hamas has a spokesman and leaders abroad, including Jordan, and that these leaders' role is restricted to projecting Hamas' positions and mobilizing political and popular support for the mujahidin. Historically, Hamas emerged from the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine, which is clear in the movement's charter.

Hamas emerged at the same time as the intifadah. Muslim youth began their activities in Gaza, led by the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza. After the intifadah was launched, Hamas decided to assert a powerful presence on the street, so it began its activities. One week after the intifadah was launched, the leadership decided to expand its activities under the name of Hamas. Therefore, Hamas turned into an independent organization. The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and in Egypt do not interfere with the daily activities of Hamas. However, there are some common objectives in the strategies of Hamas and those parties. For example, Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and in Egypt reject the peace process. Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood are in full agreement on this issue.

[Correspondent] Have you been asked to leave the Jordanian arena? Have you heard that Israel has asked Jordan to close your offices here?

[Ghawshah] There has been no such request. As Jordanian citizens, we act in Jordan in conformity with Jordanian laws and the democracy available in Jordan. The only thing we do is clarify the political positions of Hamas. 'Arafat had an instigating role in most of the pressure put on Jordan, whether by the United States or the Zionist entity. He wants to silence the voice of Hamas in Jordan. He is eager to do that because 'Arafat has been using the media weapon throughout his life; it is the most potent weapon 'Arafat has, because the one who controls the media controls public opinion. This is why he is so eager to silence the voice of Hamas in Jordan.

[Correspondent] Some political observers say his majesty was referring to you when he mentioned Islamic movements in his recent speech. What do you think of this?

[Ghawshah] His majesty's words were not addressed to us. The Hamas Movement does not carry out any operations in Palestine from Jordan. The movement here carries out its political and media role, because we play a media role only. The movement does not carry out any military operations from the Jordanian arena in the direction of Palestine. In addition, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions are completely independent of the political and media action. This issue is settled. As long as Hamas plays its media and political role in conformity with Jordanian laws, then it will continue to play this role. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad: Massacre Preplanned by 'Arafat

LD2311220994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement has once again said that Yasir 'Arafat was responsible for last Friday's [18 November] massacre of worshippers in Gaza.

In an interview with IRNA in Baalbek on Wednesday, Dr. al-Shaqaqi said: Firing on the worshippers in the Palestine mosque in Gaza began according to a prearranged plan and on a political decision by the 'Arafat administration. It was aimed at proving 'Arafat's power against Islamic movements and preventing the activities of those movements.

The secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement added: In order to avoid confrontation with forces under 'Arafat's command, the movement will act according to the struggle methods of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God have mercy upon him. Dr. al- Shaqaqi said: Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him, used to prohibit the demonstrators and the

Muslim Iranian masses from firing on the Army and used to stress that the army personnel are the mainstay of the Muslim nation of Iran.

Opposition Alliance Statement on Gaza 'Crime'

JN2411191894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Nov 94

["Text" of APF political statement issued on 24 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has issued the following political statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A statement issued by the Central Command of the APF.

The Central Command of the APF met on 23 November 1994 in the evening. The conferees held an in-depth discussion, with a high sense of national responsibility, devoted to the developments that have been taking place in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of the massacre carried out by 'Arafat's subservient authority against the sons of our Palestinian people. The conferees also assessed the popular confrontations and activities throughout occupied Palestine and in the diaspora. In addition, the conferees discussed the dangers of the kingly [reference to King Husayn] Jordanian-Israeli treaty to the future of our people, the fraternal Jordanian people, and our nation. The conferees further discussed the accelerating process of normalization between several disintegrating Arab regimes and the Zionist enemy.

In light of the above, the Central Command of the APF stresses that 'Arafat and his subservient authority are fully responsible for the crime-massacre he carried out against the sons of our people in the steadfast strip. As a result of this massacre, 16 people were martyred and more than 250 people were injured. This crime is a translation of a programmed political approach that was planned and prepared for 'Arafat in advance and in implementation of the Oslo-Cairo accords. 'Arafat and his authority did this in implementation of the conditions and orders of the Zionist occupation and to beg for aid from the donor nations and to please Washington.

Therefore, the Central Command of the APF emphasizes that the Palestine question is a national cause of destiny, and not a question of hunger and improvement of living condition, as propagated by Clinton, Rabin, Mubarak, and 'Arafat.

This crime-massacre is part of a series of seditions created by 'Arafat's subservient authority to ignite Palestinian civil war. It also reflects the serious impasse experienced by the signatories to the Oslo-Cairo accords, and is a result of the isolation that is growing tighter around this authority. This authority is now completely naked, through its capitulationist approach that relinquished the people's rights, interests, and national objectives. Consequently, this authority is now shunned by all the people of Palestine.

The all-out popular confrontation of 'Arafat and his Zionized police has confounded 'Arafat and shaken the pillars of his capitulationist scheme. It also prompted him to fabricate a series of lies in an attempt to becloud this all-out confrontation against him. He has done this by employing his poisonous trumpets, claiming that the confrontation is between his authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. By doing so, 'Arafat wants to depict the conflict as a limited one between himself and certain forces. However, he knows, just as our people and world public opinion know, that the confrontation on the ground is between this subservient authority and all the Palestinian people, its factions, and nationalist and Islamic forces. 'Arafat's attempt to blame a third imaginary party is meant to enable him to escape responsibility for this crime.

The APF greets the masses of our people, who are continuing their struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland. The APF also hails the heroic and jihad operations, asserting that it will not allow the Zionist enemy and the subservient self-administration to take on the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, or any party belonging to them, on its own.

The Central Command of the APF emphasizes its rejection of:

1. The Oslo-Cairo accords and their offshoots.

2. Participation in the institutions of the subservient self-administration authority under the slogan of building community institutions.

3. Participation in the limited elections of the council of self-administration.

4. Any political dialogue with the self-administration.

The Central Command of the APF urges the masses of our people to escalate all-out popular confrontation of 'Arafat and his subservient authority and urges more confrontations with the occupation Army and the herds of its settlers.

While greeting the personnel of the Palestinian police who are loyal to their people, the APF urges those to rebel against their Zionized leadership and not to carry out the orders of opening fire on the sons of their people. The APF also urges them to join the ranks of their people. It also cautions all honorable nationalists, whom 'Arafat is trying to instigate by invoking factional or cliquish loyalties, to heed what they know through experience, namely, that 'Arafat regards them as temporary tools to carry out his schemes and that he will soon turn his back on them. To those nationalists, we say: Your people will not change their attitude toward you, unlike those who have abandoned the Palestinian nationalist movement and disavowed the rights of our people and national objectives.

What is taking place in the occupied homeland is only a link in a series of conspiracies against our nation, beginning with the Camp David accords and ending with the kingly Jordanian-Israeli treaty. In between these two episodes, we saw the collapse of Arab regimes that have abandoned the will of their peoples, under pressure from Washington, when these regimes fell in the trap of accelerating normalization measures on the ground with the Zionist enemy.

Hence, the Central Command of the APF urges the masses of our Arab and Islamic nations and their nationalist forces to mobilize their forces and close ranks to face the U.S.-Zionist scheme that is targeted against the history, present, and future of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The Central Command of the APF emphasizes the importance of participation in the large popular march in the Gaza Strip on Friday, 25 November 1994. It urges all the masses of our people inside and abroad to carry out large struggle activities as an expression of the unity of our people and their cause.

Glory to the martyrs; disgrace and humiliation to the capitulationists.

[Signed] APF
[Dated] 24 November 1994

Five Factions Sign Agreement To End Incidents

JN2611181294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Five Palestinian factions: the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian People's Party, and FIDA [the Palestinian Democratic Union Party] have signed an agreement to contain the Gaza incidents and prevent their recurrence.

The agreement bans the shedding of Palestinian blood and incriminates those who carry weapons or attack citizens' property.

The agreement calls for resorting to democratic means and constructive dialogue as a political course to settle differences and stop all provocative manifestations. The agreement calls for releasing all political detainees and for preparing an honor code that defines the relationship among all the political forces in the Gaza Strip.

VOP: 'Minority' Should Respect People's Choice

JN2411200094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1539 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary: "For the Sake of Sound, Firm Solution of Palestinian Differences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since sad Friday [18 November], reactions among the Palestinian society have not stopped for a single moment. All these reactions indicate that the wounds are healing and the situation is returning to normal. This is manifested by the restraint and calmness which has prevailed in the Gaza Strip since the regrettable incident, and by the fact that the sedition did not spread to the West Bank. On the contrary, the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Jerusalem sought to nurse the wounds of their beloved brothers in the Gaza Strip. Another indicator that the crisis is over lies in the fact that the mediation committee reached an initial formula of understanding that stipulates the inadmissibility of displaying weapons, except by the National Authority, and calls for stopping the instigation campaigns that ruin the atmosphere and instigate clashes.

However, this level of success does not represent a definite end to the problem once and for all. There is no escape from searching for the roots and reasons that nourish differences and lead to tension and clashes in order to reach a radical solution and a sound and definitive treatment of the crisis. It is necessary, therefore, to pause at two issues.

The first is that the existence of an authority that is parallel to the National Authority represents an odd situation because, regardless of the intention, it leads to frictions and clashes. In the history of the peoples, there is not a single precedence of a stable coexistence under a dual authority. This dual authority can be resolved either democratically through mutual consent and submission to the people's right to free choice or through the use of force. This usually happens by a civil war and by clashes, the fuel of which will be the people. In the Palestinian reality, the inclination has always been toward the democratic option. All attempts to carry out a coup have been buried in their cradle. Inclination toward the democratic option must continue. The problem here is that a minority has placed itself as a parallel authority despite the fact that our history of struggle, its great accomplishments, neutral public opinion polls, the daily moves of the masses, and the records of the elected and nonelected institutions confirm that the majority of the Palestinian people are partial to the PLO, the National Authority, and the historic national leadership.

Logic calls on the minority, represented by the Islamic opposition and others, to respect the choice of the Palestinian people and to deal with issues by the logic of the political opposition and not the logic of a parallel authority. The opposition has a new opportunity represented by the legislative council elections, municipality elections, village council elections, and other elections to assess its weight and the possibility of changing the current equation.

The second issue is that the system followed by the PLO institutions, the National Authority's recognition of and demands for holding the elections, confirms political pluralism and allows for a peaceful transfer of power from one side to the other. This did actually happen when the leadership of struggler Ahmad al-Shuqayri was replaced by the Fatah leadership led by struggler Yasir 'Arafat in a democratic and peaceful manner because it reflected the change in the national structure and the Palestinian popular mood. This did not happen through a military coup or a civil war.

Adopting this principle, being committed to it, and respecting it as one of our people's traditions, both in terms of struggle and in human terms, contradicts with the policy aimed at toppling the authority through undemocratic challenges and systematic practices aimed at weakening the authority and foiling its program, or through a political solution based on clear-cut political and ideological considerations that have been proven to be impossible.

The opposition is facing the challenge of formulating a political program. It should give the people a voluntary choice between two programs and not between a national program one the one hand and the undemocratic toppling of this program on the other.

Radio Criticizes Islamic Opposition Policy

JN2611205194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Nov 94

[Station commentary: "How Should We Deal With the Causes of the Clash]

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts have focused on how to deal with one of the issues in dispute, namely, the clashes, in order to achieve reconciliation and calm. This is good and it is important. However, dealing with the elements that can fan the fire of dispute and spread sedition in the future has not yet begun. In order to deal with this issue, a profound Palestinian national dialogue should begin among all the national and Islamic movements. This will prepare a national and democratic base that is derived from all the positive elements of the previous militant experience and the requirements of national construction and national independence.

This base should be observed and respected as the new system of the current stage. This is the call the National Authority [NA] has made, under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, to the various factions and forces. It urges them to respond in a responsible manner and to shoulder their responsibility effectively, instead of using futile verbal objections.

The Palestinian people, who have experienced great changes and qualitative coups, need self-criticism to free themselves and to refrain from shuffling the deck and disavowing tradition and principles. The basic difference we will discuss today is that the Islamic opposition has not defined its actual political goal. We talk about the Islamic opposition because some of the national leftist opposition forces have clearly defined the goal of their political opposition. They want an improvement in the conditions of the agreement, in the future solution, and in the negotiating performance, after having accepted the principle of the political settlement approved by the Palestine National Council, the PLO Central Council, and the national opposition forces. By opposition, we do not mean the negative opposition that is influenced by one or another regime.

The Islamic opposition's goals—still vague and confused—range from the explicit to the implicit. That opposition rejects the principle of settlement and compromise. If this rejectionist position is allowed to go ahead with its plans, it will seek certain goals, such as undermining the Declaration of Principles, refusing to recognize Israel, and continuing the comprehensive Islamic liberation from the sea to the river. In this case, the option of the Islamic opposition is unsound. This is reflected by the conflicting statements of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership, which sometimes declares that it does not oppose the solution, that it does not want to undermine the agreement, and that it will coexist with the NA.

The opposition's option is not in line with the position of the majority of the Palestinian people, who struggled for a century, learned lessons, and developed their political thought and program until they reached a realistic and logical solution represented by the PLO's previous program and the current NA program.

Unfortunately, all this took place in isolation of the Islamic forces, because they were not part of that struggle, since their historical leaders had their own calculations.

One can pose the following question in light of the above disagreement: Does the Islamic leadership have the right to ignore the position of the majority of the Palestinian people who have accepted a political settlement? Or is it eager to respect the will of the militant people and thus give the solution and peace a chance through which it and the people can try all the means they have? When the majority of the people become convinced of the failure of a solution and of peace, then it will be logical to resort to other options. The Palestinian people have proved they are completely capable of overcoming all the obstacles they face and to realistically respond to the requirements of the struggle.

The logical answer one can deduce from the people's mood and reactions to the previous question is the need to respect the choice of the majority of the people, to give peace the chance it needs, and to realize that a perfect solution to the Palestinian cause is impossible. The leaders and intellectuals of the opposition Islamic trend certainly know this answer too.

The only thing that remains to be decided is to settle the contradiction in the stand of the opposition and to encourage the opposition and the NA to reach agreement on many objectives, such as improving the conditions of the solution, expediting the termination of the occupation, building the institutions of the state of law, enshrining political pluralism, holding elections and respecting their results, as well as a hundred other issues.

But, to have the leadership of the Islamic trend turn its back on the logical solution implies one of two possibilities: The first will be gambling with the current chance for a political settlement and pushing the Palestinian people into the abyss or into isolation in the mad search for the perfect resolution of their cause. The second is fanning the fire of opposition against the NA in order to seize power and to prove the Islamists ability to foil the solution the PLO signed as well as its readiness to negotiate with the Israeli government, in order to spread their authority over the remains of the present NA. The final answer depends on national dialogue and on the frankness of the leadership of the Islamic trend.

Report on 'Darwish-al-Tibi Document' on Mediation

JN2411110794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following is the text of the statement issued by Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement within the green line, and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, in their capacity as a committee for mediation and reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority [PA] on one hand and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the opposition parties on the other—this statement is called the Darwish-al-Tibi Document:

To avoid further complications for our people in this delicate stage; to root out those infiltrating into the ranks; and to nip the sedition in the bud, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi met with the parties in the Gaza Strip. The viewpoints of all parties were in agreement on the need to refrain from all armed provocative manifestations in the streets, except by the police; from public meetings; from demonstrations; and from issuing any leaflets, statements, or announcements that would include threats or vilifications. Meanwhile, all parties will reserve their right to express their political stands through leaflets, statements, and announcements that should not infringe on personalities and groups in order to serve the interests of the Palestinian people until the mediators accomplish their task.

Peace Watch: Funds Went to 'Arafat Loyalists

TA2811055894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinians were downbeat about the upcoming meeting with donor countries. Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, the deputy director of the Palestinian Council for Development, said he expected the donor countries to deliver a little money and lots of promises.

Meanwhile, the watchdog group Peace Watch issued a report that the first sum of donor money that was transferred to the Palestinians, some $13 million, has ended up with 'Arafat loyalists in Lebanon.

Jerusalem Mufti on Attempts To Enter al-Aqsa

JN2911131594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri, the mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine, has told the Voice of Palestine that 15 extremist settlers this morning tried to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque from the Lions' Gate to pray at the mosque. However, the vigilant guards' prevented them after a hand fight between the two sides. Shaykh 'Ikrimah said that this was a premeditated attack because the extremist Jews were accompanied by television cameramen to film the incident.

Citizens said that the extremist Jews entered from the Lions' Gate entrance as tourists and then changed into traditional prayer clothes. Israeli occupation police subsequently came and led the 15 extremists out of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

With us on the line is 'Ikrimah Sabri, the mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Shaykh 'Ikrimah, good morning.

[Sabri] Good morning.

[Correspondent] How are you?

[Sabri] Well, thanks be to God, welcome.

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Ikrimah, we have heard that a group of extremist settlers attacked the al-Aqsa Mosque. Would you please brief us on this incident?

[Sabri] In fact, dear brother, this is not the first attempt and I believe it will not be the last, because there is no proper deterrence to the settlers' actions. Although the citizens have been on their guard, such incidents have been recurring daily. For example, two days ago a settler climbed down the wall. He was caught by one of the guards, who handed him to the police. These incidents take place more often on Saturdays and Tuesdays. They enter for provocation purposes and to prove, as they believe, one of their alleged rights.

[Correspondent] Why also on Tuesdays Shaykh 'Ikrimah?

[Sabri] Actually, I do not know the reason for this or what they believe. However, al-Aqsa Mosque guards have observed that these settlers enter the mosque on these two days, Saturdays and Tuesdays.

[correspondent] This means that attacks against the al-Aqsa Mosque by extremist settlers have become a phenomenon?

[Sabri] Yes, unfortunately they have become a recurring phenomenon. We fear this situation will exacerbate. This alarms Muslims. We warn against the recurrence of such attempts and call on the Israeli authorities to stop the settlers and prevent them from entering the outer gates that lead to the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard.

[Correspondent] Have letters been sent to judicial organizations and international groups?

[Sabri] Yes, The Higher Islamic Commission and the Directorate of Awqaf will issue protest statements and send letters to international bodies and Israeli officials.

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Ikrimah, we heard that in this attempt to attack the al-Aqsa Mosque there were television teams filming the incident. Does this mean that the incident was premeditated?

[Sabri] Undoubtedly it was premeditated. The presence of television crews with these settlers confirms this. This means that the settlers want to let the foreign media know that they have a right to pray in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard.

[Correspondent] The settlers entered from the Lions' Gate as tourists?

[Sabri] Yes, there was some deception and camouflage. The watchman, initially, was not aware that they were planning to enter, but when they gathered in the courtyard he became alarmed and sought help from other guards and the students of the Islamic School, which is adjacent to the Lions' Gate. So, they managed to get them out of the square.

[Correspondent] Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri, mufti of Jerusalem and the Palestinian land, thank you very much. [end recording]

Finance Minister on Aid, Talks With Hamas, Jihad

NC2511081694 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 25 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi in Gaza by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Miliji] Good morning, Your Excellency, and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Nashshibi] Good morning.

[Al-Miliji] How will President Mubarak's European tour reflect on the Palestinian issue?

[Al-Nashashibi] This auspicious tour has reflected on two major areas. The first is the backing he has demanded for the Palestinian people's struggle and the need to accelerate the search for a just and comprehensive settlement that could guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people. The second is the clarity with which the president has explained the deteriorating economic situation as a result of the Israeli measures, such as the economic blockade of the West Bank and Gaza, and the donor states' failure to provide immediate aid, whether to strengthen the budget or implement infrastructure projects. The implementation of these projects was supposed to have started when the Palestinian National Authority [PA] assumed its responsibility. Had these projects been implemented, it would have created jobs for thousands of unemployed people, boosted the economy, and provided support for the PA, which has tremendous burdens. The delay by the other donors in providing aid to the Palestinian police has resulted in a more-than-$20-million deficit. Thus, the PA faces difficulties. President Mubarak's statements were loud and clear, holding the international community responsible for the delay and failure to give the promised aid. President Mubarak has been successful in highlighting the dangers that could result from the delayed arrival of this aid, and for this we thank him.

[Al-Miliji] The British government has decided to give 75 million pounds sterling to the PA. How will this be of help to the Palestinian people?

[Al-Nashashibi] We have not yet been told how this money will be spent. However, President Mubarak undoubtedly has worked to secure this aid. We cannot tell how it will be of help before we clarify things. However, I can tell you now that some of it will go to the budget, some for the salaries of policemen, and a third and most important amount will contribute to some infrastructural work. This will alleviate the burdens assumed by the Authority and create new jobs that could boost the Palestinian national economy in Gaza and soon in the West Bank.

[Al-Miliji] Let us turn to the meeting of the donor states, which will be held soon and attended by Israel. What are your plans for this conference?

[Al-Nashashibi] This conference will be a major turning point. Either the donors will fulfill their promises and the peace process and economic development will proceed or they will fail to do so, and in that case the consequences will be grave.

[Al-Miliji] Did you and the Israeli side agree to coordinate plans in this regard?

[Al-Nashashibi] Such coordination is not necessary. What is important is to coordinate with the donor states.

[Al-Miliji] It has been said that Rabin discussed the question of aid to the Palestinians with President Clinton. Can you comment on this?

[Al-Nashashibi] We will comment when the aid arrives, whether directly or any other way. But so far we have not only not received the aid but also what Israel owes us in terms of taxes collected by the Israeli authorities, such as income tax, value-added tax, the tax on fuel production and marketing, health tax, and the tax on workers in Israel. Between 60 and 80 million shekels of the total outstanding was supposed to have been transferred, but nothing has been received.

[Al-Miliji] Have you reached any agreement with the Israelis about permits for Palestinians to work in Israel?

[Al-Nashashibi] We are still discussing the matter with them, but progress is very slow and is does not live up to the consequences that could result from the rise in unemployment rate. Those who have denied the Palestinian people a chance to develop must open up the labor market for workers and the unprecedented number of jobless people.

[Al-Miliji] What is the unemployment rate in Gaza?

[Al-Nashashibi] More than 58 percent.

[Al-Miliji] Israel has recently decided to ease the siege of Gaza.

[Al-Nashashibi] It is too slow, much slower than it should be. Far fewer people go to Israel to work than the number officially released by Israel.

[Al-Miliji] Let us turn to the question of mediation between you and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. It has been reported that you reached an agreement or a temporary truce with Hamas. What is the real situation between you and Hamas at present?

[Al-Nashashibi] Tangible progress has been made in these talks. We are not in a state of war, that people should say that we have reached a temporary truce. It is a serious step on the road that will lead to national accord, God willing.

[Al-Miliji] Is there a draft agreement between the two of you?

[Al-Nashashibi] Yes. It is an agreement that will be prepared and developed gradually.

[Al-Miliji] An agreement on what?

[Al-Nashashibi] On methods of cooperation and confrontation, ending the bloodshed, and all that could safeguard national unity and strengthen the Palestinian struggle.

[Al-Miliji] So it is not a joint working plan between the PA and Hamas for the future?

[Al-Nashashibi] This is the core of the discussion that has been going on for several weeks.

[Al-Miliji] Could we say then that acts of violence between the PA and Hamas will come to an end?

[Al-Nashashibi] God willing. There is a commitment by all parties to refrain from any acts of violence in the dialogue among the active Palestinian parties. Thus, we pray to God to help us abide by the promises we have made.

[Al-Miliji] What about the Jihad movement?

[Al-Nashashibi] It is also in the process of reaching an understanding.

[Al-Miliji] Are there mediation efforts under way between the two of you?

[Al-Nashashibi] Yes. The mediation, dialogue, or good offices are continuing.

[Al-Miliji] We end this dialogue by thanking Palestinian Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, who is now with us on the line from Gaza.

[Al-Nashashibi] Thank you.

'Arafat Bans 4 Arabic, Israeli Papers

JN2811174394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian self-rule authority has banned the distribution of three Arabic newspapers and an Israeli English daily, apparently because of extended coverage of the Islamic opposition.

Palestinian reporters said Palestinian police confiscated the newspapers at the Erez crossing from Israel when they were delivered to their distributors. All four newspapers, AL-QUDS, AL-NAHAR, THE JERUSALEM POST, and the weekly AL-MANAR are published in Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources said chairman of the self-rule authority Mr. Yasir 'Arafat issued the ban today before leaving for Brussels for three days of negotiations with Israel and the international donors.

More on Banned Papers

TA2911120194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two East Jerusalem newspapers were again banned this morning in the Gaza Strip. Copies of both AL-QUDS and AL-NAHAR were seized at the Erez checkpoint by Palestinian Authority [PA] police officers for the second day running. The reason is understood to be articles claiming 70,000 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters—and not 5,000 as claimed by the PA—took part in Saturday's [26 November] big protest rally. AL-QUDS also wrote an editorial criticizing yesterday's ban on circulation in the Strip.

EC Grants $12 Million To Build New Housing

TA2811193494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The EC today awarded $12 million to the Palestinian Housing Council to build 300 housing units in Judaea, Samaria, and the autonomy. Ahmad Shadid, chairman of the Palestinian Housing Council, told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the inhabitants of the territories urgently need 100,000 housing units. He pointed out that about one third of existing apartments are not fit for living.

Algeria

Moroccan King Invites Zeroual to ICO Summit

LD2811234794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An invitation from the Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II to the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, to participate in the forthcoming summit of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], to be convene in Casablanca in the second half of December, was delivered by the Moroccan employment and social affairs minister and the King's envoy. The invitation was delivered to Liamine Zeroual during a meeting with him today.

State of Emergency Reportedly Pending

MM2911111694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: State of Emergency To Be Applied Within Days; Power To Be Transferred to Military"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has learned from high-ranking sources in the Algerian capital that the final arrangements for transferring powers from the civilian authority to the military authority have been completed, and that the country will enter a state of emergency [hal istithna'] within the next few days.

If this state—a maximum degree—is announced, the powers delegated to the civilians by some constitutional institutions would be transferred to the military leaders. In that case the Constitution would be considered frozen, and all political and party activities would be suspended.

The sources said that at that time a group of newspapers would be suspended and the others would be put under the control of the military authority, which will supervise the political parties, or perhaps dissolve some of them.

As for the provinces, all powers exercised by the governors would be transferred to the commanders of the military sectors. At the central level, the national security directorate would also be put under the military authority's control, and all its security powers would be withdrawn. The new measures will not include the deployment of tanks in the streets, but the Army will be deployed at the approaches of the capital.

The sources, who were speaking from the Algerian capital and who asked to remain anonymous, emphasized to AL-HAYAH that the "state of emergency" will not be announced officially, but it will be applied secretly. The sources attributed this to the authorities' wish not to inflate the security situation in the eyes of world public opinion, especially economic partners, with whom Mokdad Sifi's government will hold negotiations over rescheduling the debts before the end of the year. The Algerian authorities believe that reinforcing the "security grip" would encourage local and foreign investors to participate in development enterprises. But observers believe that moving toward confrontation might not lead to the desired results, especially if the authorities fail to settle the situation. Some military leaders fear that the confrontation might last a long time and not produce the fruits expected from it. They say that the military establishment's failure to settle the situation this time—and it is using all its capabilities against the armed Islamic groups—would have adverse effects that could shake the unity of this establishment and its future role. [passage omitted]

FIS Activists Deny Running Guns From Europe

MM2211162594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Is Aachen, Germany a Center For Political Activities or a Base for Smuggling Arms to Algeria?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Aachen (Germany)—The activities of Algerian groups working to overthrow the regime in their country are being launched from Aachen, a small town located inside Germany on the border with Belgium and the Netherlands. Western intelligence sources say that these groups are working in the form of networks spread across more than one European country whose task is to smuggle arms to Algeria.

The first part of the story—that is the Algerian groups' activities—is true, and those involved do not try to conceal it. As for the second part, that is the existence of organized networks smuggling arms, activists of the Algerian groups vehemently deny it. They say that it is "a French attempt to level accusations at us and to put pressure on Germany to curb our activities."

The groups' activities in Europe are led by Cheikh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front Executive Committee. He is the Front's official spokesman abroad. He works in accordance with instructions he receives from Algeria. And he makes daily contact with the Front's leaders inside the country and in Europe. But the cheikh, who fled Algeria and is under sentence of death on charges of involvement in blowing up Houari Boumediene airport in Algiers in August 1992, is banned from performing any public political activities in the state in which he is residing. Political asylum laws in Germany, from which he launches his activities, restrict his freedom of movement to a large extent.

On that basis, and out of "respect" for the "asylum" laws, the Salvation Front official has not attended many of the meetings and seminars to which he has been invited in a number of European states. Although his participation in some of these meetings—as some people close to him say—would have contributed to explaining the Front's real view and "refuted many of the accusations leveled at us."

But Cheikh Kebir does not hesitate to violate asylum laws from time to time, especially when he feels that there is a need to make some announcements himself concerning the Front's policy. [passage omitted]

While the political activities of the Front's principal official abroad usually end up with his paying fines when Germany feels that he has embarrassed it by his statements, his presence at the head of a front that has branches throughout Europe worries many states on this continent. And, as is known, France is the one most interested in his activities. It openly says that it is watching the movements of the Islamic Front elements on its territory. And it is putting pressure on other Western states—such as the United States, Britain, Germany, and Belgium—to ban Salvation Front activists from making any political moves.

In its campaign to ban the activities of the Algerians belonging to the Salvation Front, France focuses on the claim that they are smuggling arms to Algeria. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH stayed a few days in Aachen and spoke to numerous Salvation Front activists about the nature of their moves. Abdelkader (imaginary name) said that he wished, if he could, "to send a machine gun to Algeria in a suitcase, even if that leads to my arrest." Does that emanate from the instructions of the Front's leaders abroad? He replied: "Of course not. Do you think the mujahidin in Algeria need a machine gun or a pistol to be smuggled to them from Europe? Arms are available in abundance for the mujahidin. They daily seize advanced military materiel from Army barracks and security patrols."

However, a denial that organized networks exist does not mean that there are not people trying to smuggle arms individually. The recent French campaign, a Front activist says, "has proved that the arrested elements, if they really are involved in smuggling arms, do not belong to an organized network. They are certainly not members of the Islamic Front." The young man, who had just arrived from Belgium, said: "It takes just half an hour. There are no borders between the two countries. We can move between Germany and Belgium whenever we want to."

Does that really mean that there is a network operating between Aachen and Algeria via Belgium and France? The young man says: "Look, Brother: France is trying to spread rumors against us and it is working to restrict our freedom. And it seems that Belgium has submitted to its pressure, as it arrested scores of young men a few days ago. But I stress to you that we are not involved in any illegal activities. And our movement between Belgium and Germany does not mean the existence of a network smuggling arms. The mujahidin do not need our arms. We come to Aachen to see our brothers, and there is nothing wrong in that."

The Front supporters whom AL-HAYAH met talk enthusiastically about the need to "support the jihad in Algeria by all means." What does "by all means" indicate? Jamal [imaginary name] says: "I simply mean supporting the mujahidin through political activities and also by helping them even with bullets." Do you do that? He says: "If I had not pledged myself not to violate German laws, I would do so. But others can do it when they see their brothers and families being killed in Algeria(...)."

FIS' Hadam: 'We Have Nothing Against the West'

BR2511132994 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Nov 94 p 6

[Interview with FIS leader Anouar Hadam by "R.I." in Rome; date not given: "We Want Political Solution in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [R.I.] I wonder how you will be able to explain to any resident of the Algiers suburbs your being here in Rome, at a discussion convened under the aegis of a Catholic ecumenical community?

[Hadam] I have nothing to explain. I have no need to justify myself. Those who do need to do so are those minority elites who wish to impose Western values, thus trying to defend a single aim—that of their own interests. We have nothing against the West. We have always called for coexistence. We also say that religion is a factor which unites peoples. In this world, ethics and morality stemming from religion are necessary. There is a clear demand for moral values which remain absent from politics.

[R.I.] What are the main achievements of the Rome opposition meeting?

[Hadam] To start with, we have given international public opinion a different idea, a different view of the Algerian conflict. It is not a problem between the regime and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], but between the people—represented by the parties—and those in charge of the regime. Second, the meeting served to make it clear that the whole opposition wants a resumption of the electoral process, and that this kind of meeting or discussion will be repeated until we succeed in opening a door which will enable us to begin serious negotiations.

[R.I.] Could a joint strategy between the parties of the opposition open to dialogue be established at this meeting?

[Hadam] It became clear to the press and observers that there are no radical and fundamental differences between the Algerian opposition parties with respect to negotiation as a formula for emerging from the crisis. We all agree on the need for the political power to emanate from the people.

[R.I.] I found with surprise in the latest FIS communique read out at the Rome meeting a condemnation of terrorism. It is the first time that your party has expressed itself in such terms. What interpretation should be made of this condemnation?

[Hadam] From the first day, from the first moment, we have condemned terrorism. The fact is that there has been a news blackout. We have been subject to censorship, and we have been unable to communicate freely with the public. From the first day, we have said that Algeria's problem is political in origin and that it should be resolved from this viewpoint and through political solutions. We want a political solution for Algeria. In fact, terrorism is the action of a minority who wish to impose themselves by force on the majority. This is terrorism. Responsibility for this situation lies with the regime, which is behind the January 1992 coup.

[R.I.] But you have declared a jihad (holy war—EL PAIS editor's note).

[Hadam] Yes, that is true. We have declared a jihad, which must not be confused with a holy war. We declared it in accordance with the fundamental principles of Islam. It is a means—not an end. The jihad's sole aim is to impose or have accepted the political path. When we have achieved this, in religious and moral terms we will have to give up the jihad. We must use all means to open up the political path. I am a representative of a people. I have been lawfully elected. We never contemplated taking power by force. Our intention has never been to replace one dictatorship with another.

[R.I.] But I wonder whether the jihad has no rules with which to curb or limit the excesses committed by some armed Islamic organizations.

[Hadam] Of course the jihad has its rules. To begin with, the ends do not justify the means. We have some rules—for instance, not to attack any public property or the innocent. But to put the problem in this way is to justify terror and torture, voluntarily or involuntarily. But I will also tell you that many unfounded accusations are leveled against us. We have been accused of horrible, indescribable crimes. At any event, no excess justifies keeping the current regime.

[R.I.] What is the state of the dialogue, negotiations, or contacts taking place in Algeria between the FIS leaders under house arrest and the government's representatives?

[Hadam] To start with, I will tell you that there has never been any negotiation in Algeria. There are not, nor have there been, clear and well defined ideas on the part of the government. But, moreover, we have not been allowed to organize ourselves freely in order to examine and debate the reasons for and solutions to the crisis. The government systematically rejects everything. It even denies the mujahidin's existence. The FIS pointed this out back in 1991, after the general strike. It warned them that if the electoral process were halted, the people would end up taking up arms. They refused to listen to us, and now they refuse to acknowledge a phenomenon which is there, which exists—that of the mujahidin. But they also refuse to allow us to meet in order to pass our resolutions, although we have officially asked them for this. We have had no reply. What is clear is that we are prepared to negotiate.

Security Reports Operations Against 'Terrorists'

El Khroub Leader Killed

LD2811192194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced in a statement today that their forces have eliminated 41 terrorists, including 20 in Constantine, between Friday [25 November] and Sunday. The rest were killed in the provinces of Blida, Tissemsilt, Relizane, Bouira, and Skikda.

The statement added that the security services have recovered many machine guns and automatic pistols, hunting rifles, homemade grenades, and various equipments.

It added that Hadjadj Slimani, leader of the El Khroub group, who was sought since June 1992 for committing numerous acts of terrorism, including the assassination of the director of religious affairs in Constantine, was among the eliminated terrorists.

Twelve Militants Killed

NC2711182894 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 27 (AFP)—Algerian forces have killed 12 suspected Islamic militants and arrested several others belonging to "terrorist cells", state security sources said Sunday [27 November].

They said they killed three armed fundamentalists Friday at Saoula, on the southern outskirts of the capital, and at Belcourt, a suburb to the east.

The security forces also announced that they had killed a further nine suspected Islamic militants, but gave no details of the date of the operations. Four of the deaths took place in western Algeria where state security forces said they had uncovered a 32-member "terrorist cell."

The latest deaths bring to 349 the number of suspected Islamic militants killed by Algerian security forces since the start of November, according to unofficial figures.

The security forces also said they had dismantled several "terrorist cells" with various duties including guarding and giving financial support to armed groups. The cells also allegedly carried out executions, gathered intelligence and collected funds and clothing.

A total of 56 people were arrested in these operations, the security forces said.

Thirteen Killed in Tipaza

LD2311133394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another statement by the security services issued today said the security services have eliminated 13 terrorists, and destroyed a hideout during a search operation they carried out the day before yesterday at Boudjabroun forest in Mourad municipality, Tipaza Province.

The statement of the security services pointed out that after the operation the security forces recovered two home-made grenades, equipment for manufacturing cartridges, gunpowder, capsules for cartridges used in hunting rifles, instigatory leaflets, gas cylinders, and first aid medicine.

Berber Movement Leader on Meeting With Sifi

LD2511214594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Berber 1830 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi met Djamel Zennati, leader of the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] National Commission. The leaders of the MCB National commission met this morning in Ighzer Amokrane, in the wilaya of Bejaia, to discuss yesterday's meeting. [passage omitted]

The Sifi-Zennati meeting took place yesterday. What did the MCB National Commission say to the prime minister, and what were Sifi's answers? Let's listen to MCB National Commission Leader Djamel Zennati himself, who was interviewed by our envoy Boudjemaa Rabah:

[Begin Zennati recording] When we talked to Sifi, he mentioned the commission which he has set up. We told him that if the commission is considered as the only measure to be taken in dealing with the issue of Tamazight, we reject it because the Tamazight issue needs a political solution. Tamazight should be declared as an official national language. As for how it should be introduced in the national curriculum and used in the justice system and widely used by people, this is a matter which needs more time and a matter which concerns the commission. Sifi told us that he will examine the issue and work within this framework. It seems to me that the regime is also hoping to find a solution. [end recording]

Egypt

Musa Comments on Mubarak-Iliescu Talks

NC2411120194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Bucharest, 24 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Romania will strengthen bilateral relations. He said there will be continuing consultations between the two sides, particularly in light of the similarities of their situation with regard to the stages of economic reform between Egypt and Romania.

The foreign minister said in a statement today that discussions between President Mubarak and President Iliescu and the expanded meetings attended by members of the Egyptian and Romanian delegations last night focused on the economic reform process in Egypt and Romania.

He pointed out that the meetings between the ministers of both sides will resume today in Bucharest.

He said the dinner President Iliescu gave in honor of President Mubarak was an official dinner banquet but it was also a working dinner at which all the ministers discussed with their counterparts the scope of joint cooperation.

'Amr Musa clarified in his statement that President Husni Mubarak discussed during his talks last night with President Iliescu the peace process, the situation in the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea, the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem, and Eastern Europe.

As for the three agreements that were signed today between the Egyptian and Romanian sides, the foreign minister said they deal with bilateral economic cooperation and trade exchange in addition to political consultations on a higher level.

The foreign minister said that agreement had been reached for the ministers of information, business sector, and international cooperation to bolster bilateral relations and discuss the economic reform experiment in both countries, in particular, the privatization process.

Musa Rejects Pressure Over Support for Libya

NC2811164394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is closely following up the plight of Egyptians abroad and is holding contacts following press reports that Egyptian workers in Iraq and Jordan are being deliberately murdered. He affirmed that the Foreign Ministry will publish all the results of these contacts.

Musa was commenting on press reports that Egyptian workers in Iraq and Jordan are being deliberately murdered and that the Egyptian authorities are taking no interest in the subject. He explained that the figures published by some newspapers are inaccurate and said that the ministry is investigating the issue.

In a statement this evening, Musa said he has no objection to the concern expressed by some newspapers in view of their good intentions. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which shares this concern, is holding contacts to acquaint itself with all aspects of this subject, protect Egyptian nationals, and deal with the situation on the basis of facts, not rumors.

Asked about the effect of the pressure being put on Egypt due to its support for Libya's stance, Musa said nothing will make Egypt change its stance—neither articles, nor attacks, nor pressures—because this stance stems from an objective analysis of the situation in the region, relations with Libya, and the stands of other states toward Libya. He affirmed that we are very concerned about the Libyan people's interests, with all due respect for international legitimacy.

Musa Denies Tunisia Opposed Admission to AMU

NC2811171894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he submitted a comprehensive report to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today on the outcome of his talks in Riyadh yesterday. He said that Saudi King Fahd asked him to convey a message to President Mubarak in response to one from Mubarak. Musa said his talks in Riyadh dealt with the situation in the Arab world and bilateral relations. They also dealt with the results of President Mubarak's recent European tour.

Musa said it is natural for the Arab states to consult with each other to follow up on developments in the Arab region—in regard to both the peace process, especially on the Palestinian track, which is facing successive crises, and the overall Arab situation.

Musa said it is natural for Egypt and Saudi Arabia to consult with each other due to their joint interests and views. These consultations can be of benefit to current developments.

Musa said Egypt's admission as an observer to the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] is within the framework of Arab solidarity and is an important step for boosting collective relations among the North African countries. He said that the AMU expressed their pleasure at Egypt's admission and denied that Tunisia opposed the admission.

On attempts to achieve Arab reconciliation, Musa said the attempts to achieve Arab detente have not stopped, because Arab detente is in the interests of all the Arab states.

Al-Baz Returns to Cairo From U.S.

NC2811195894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah Al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo tonight after a nine-day visit to the United States, during which he held talks with U.S. officials on relations between the two countries and the peace efforts in the region.

Al-Baz said that, during his visit, he felt that U.S. officials were greatly interested in the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East, especially on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks. He said he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of his visit to the United States.

Al-Baz stressed the need to provide the Palestinian Authority [PA] with the means to succeed in the rest of the occupied territories. He also stressed that the donor countries meeting in Brussels must fulfill their financial obligations to the PA.

Al-Baz expressed the hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region on 5 December will be fruitful. He also expressed the hope that peace efforts will be unified and the gap narrowed between the Israeli stand, on the one hand, and the Syrian and Lebanese stands on the other so that progress can be made on these tracks.

U.S., UN, NATO Positions on Bosnia Attacked

NC2911081894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR describes UN and U.S. attitudes to the massacres to which the Muslims are being subjected in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a scandal unprecedented in international politics.

In an editorial today the paper denounces the international community's lack of firmness and its watching the tragic massacre of a small nation without openly objecting to this brutal assault.

AL-AKHBAR also denounces NATO, which it says is satisfied with merely parading some of its aircraft now and then, but refuses to use them to prevent the Serbian forces from using their heavy weapons and planes to bombard Muslim towns and positions.

The paper ridicules U.S. and UN declarations that they are unable to halt the most hideous aggression in Europe since World War II or to protect a small country that has been under attack for over 31 months. The paper notes that the United States and the United Nations mobilized hundreds of thousands of troops to fight the Iraqi forces that invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Germany Urged To Halt 'Deterioration' in Bosnia

NC2511160094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has urged Germany, in its capacity as the current European Union chairman, to exert every effort to stop things deteriorating in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where events are leading to the gravest consequences.

Egypt expressed its own concern and that of the Arab and Islamic world over the deterioration in Bosnia following the recent Serb attacks.

This came in a message sent by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today to German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Papers: Lack of Aid to Palestinians To Ruin Peace

NC2911082594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH have stated the need to prompt aid by the donor countries to the new Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho to salvage both the Palestinian economy and the peace operation.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH declares that Palestine has a right to this aid and it is the duty of the major industrial powers to extend it if they want stability in the Middle East. It adds that it is also Israel's duty to contribute to Palestinian projects on the grounds that the burden of administering the occupied territories has been lifted from its shoulders.

The paper notes that "marginalizing the aid issue" might ruin the entire peace process, especially as the degree of peace achieved so far is not equal to the tremendous efforts that have been made to achieve it.

AL-AHRAM says concerted efforts are needed to improve the deteriorating conditions in the self-rule areas by implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles so that the Palestinian citizen can begin to feel that the peace settlement is meaningful.

The paper remarks that the lack of any financial aid to the Palestinians has provoked clashes between the Palestinian forces and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], a development that poses the threat of a civil war that might mean the failure of the entire peace process.

AL-AHRAM points out that the escalation of armed national resistance operations against the Israeli occupation forces has coincided with international pressures and the donor countries' failure to fulfill their financial commitments.

Paper: Arab 'Haste' Will Encourage 'Radical' Israel

NC2411070994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM criticizes many Arab parties for rushing toward Israel and signing accords of normalization and bilateral and regional cooperation with Israel without considering other Arab parties' interests. Their interests, the paper says, require continuing coordination on the negotiations and organized moves to achieve the Arab interest in the best manner.

In its editorial on Thursday, the paper adds that this is happening while Palestinian people in the self-rule areas suffer the effects of Israel's policy of procrastination and stalling to hamper negotiations on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles. They are also suffering from the donor nations reneging on their pledged aid.

The paper asserts that the steps taken by some Arab countries toward Israel, most of which it says are characterized by haste, will make Israel more radical and extreme in the negotiations on other tracks.

The paper asks: Why should Israel show flexibility on issues it can procrastinate on, since Arab moves flow like a river according to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres?

The paper concludes that slowing down and organizing the river flow will lessen the hazards of the haste and allow other Arab parties to reap the fruits of peace. Partial or secondary solutions, it says, will bring nothing for the region but more tension and a decline in joint Arab action, something that is in the interest of no Arab party.

Speaker Surur Praises Cooperation, Ties With Sudan

NC2311184994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (MENA)—Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly, has received a written message from the Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. The message stresses the profound ties and cooperation between the two assemblies and peoples.

In his message, Dr. Surur expressed appreciation to the Sudanese Assembly's speaker and members for their sincere fraternal feelings and sympathy over the floods disaster. Dr. Surur said that that consolation confirms an affiliation to the same nation.

It is worth noting that the speaker of the Sudanese Assembly had sent a cable of condolences to Dr. Surur concerning the flood disaster that recently hit certain areas in upper Egypt. In his cable, the Sudanese official expressed his condolences and those of the Assembly over this painful event. He also beseeched God Almighty to spare Egypt any mishap.

Commentary Scolds Sudanese Regime on Abuse

NC2711172794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Nov 94

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Insulting Egypt Does Not Make Heroes Out of Dwarfs"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ruling Sudanese regime is mindboggling. It does not know anything other than abusing the Egyptian people. It knows nothing about ethics and politics other than engaging daily in cheap vituperations in a futile attempt to draw the attention of others by abusing Egypt and the Egyptian people without purpose. It believes that fabricating crises and creating daily problems are in the nature of its existence and political action and a justification for its presence over the bodies of the fraternal Sudanese people. It imagines that directing the spears of abuse and grudges against Egypt and its people is the only way to have its name heard at regional and world levels. The regime forgets, or pretends to forget, that it has a long and black history of corruption, persecution, and waste, for which the fraternal Sudanese people are paying a dear price. The regime deliberately ignores the fact that insulting fraternal and neighboring peoples is not the way out of its predicament, for these peoples know that the current situation in Sudan is nothing but a bad time that will ultimately come to an end, the same as similar tyrannical regimes have gone.

The al-Bashir regime does not want to learn the facts of history or realize how the world around it is moving. It does not know that the age we live in is one of solidarity, cooperation, and peace and not one of problems, crises, and vituperations. It is a regime that does not want to understand or see that it is going in the opposite and wrong direction and that it is leading its people toward problems and predicaments. It is a regime that rules by iron and steel and believes that repression and terrorism are the only means for it to stay in power. [passage omitted]

Irritated by its isolation and the fact that everybody is keeping away from it, this regime could not find any way out other than opening its doors wide open for the symbols of international terrorism and armed extremist groups so that they can help it face its political isolation. The existing regime in Sudan has sold itself to the devil for a few dollars, which it thought would meet its needs and strengthen its rule. But it has forgotten that the path of terrorism is one stained by the blood of the innocent and the Muslims and that judgment day is near. [passage omitted]

The al-Bashir regime knows before anybody else that the Egyptian people and leadership only seek the good of the Arab peoples and that Egypt is shouldering all the worries of the Arab world. It carries the banners of the Palestinian cause and the cause of Arab rights at all international forums. This fact was clearly demonstrated during President Mubarak's recent European tour, which showed the entire world how Egypt cares about the Arab future and the rights of the Arab people to land, peace, security, and safety.

Egypt believes that the fraternal Sudanese people are strong enough to put an end to the vituperations of this regime, which survives on sheer violence and repression. It believes that the Sudanese people, who are known for abiding by ethical and religious principles and genuine Arab values, are capable of confronting the abuse of the al-Bashir regime and ending its excesses. Constant verbal abuse of Egypt and the Egyptian people will not add to the Sudanese ruler's stature. The military regime in Sudan epitomizes the magnitude of the tragedy experienced by the Sudanese people, whom we pray God will be quickly relieved of this predicament and released from the shackles of this ruling junta, so that they can once again return to the fold of its Arab nation.

Sudanese Press Attacks Criticized

NC2811152094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Indeed They Are the Vituperations of the Spiteful"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The antics, vituperations, and diatribes of the ruling regime in Sudan against Egypt are many. Whenever the noose tightens around the ruling regime in Sudan—because of Sudan's chronic political and economic crises—it usually resorts to fabricating crises and issuing lies. It is no exaggeration to say that we in Egypt are the last to be surprised by the hired pens in the so-called Sudanese press who keep attacking Egypt and its people. [passage omitted]

Sudan miscalculates when it resorts to these vituperations and unfair accusations against the sincere Egyptian leadership. Sudan's provocative behavior is totally inconsistent with the principles of the everlasting relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. It seems that the crisis that the Sudanese regime is facing has caused it to lose its balance, prompting it to fabricate this artificial animosity with Cairo and to claim that Egypt is seeking to overthrow the regime. The Sudanese regime's only concern is to slander Egypt and cast doubt on its Arab and international role, imagining that it can thus undermine it. This regime has forgotten that Egypt, which is the heart of the Arab nation, defends the cause of the Arabs and Muslims in all international lobbies. [passage omitted]

The ruling regime in Sudan, which is doing to the Sudanese people what the Iraqi ruler is doing to his people, believes that it will be rewarded for unilaterally supporting the Iraqi regime and its barbaric invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. This invasion shook Arab solidarity and distorted the Arab nation's image. The Sudanese regime is defending a man who, the whole world agrees, is mentally deranged. The Sudanese regime is deluded if it believes it can be rewarded for defending the Iraqi regime, because the dictator of Baghdad himself needs help.

The Sudanese regime's political isolation is an inevitable result of its repressive policy at home and aggressive policy abroad. It has lost the ability to adhere to the priorities of the principles and rules of Islamic ethics in political, diplomatic, and cultural dealings with other states. This reflects the real crisis that the regime is encountering inside Sudan. The crisis is isolation from the Sudanese people even more than isolation from other regional and international states.

What the delegations of the whole world saw during the performance of Opera Aida two days ago is a message to all that Egypt is secure, safe, friendly, and tolerant.

Contrary to the claims of the Sudanese regime's press, Egypt does not suffer from instability and does not face the dangers of terrorism. [passage omitted]

Daily: 'Diplomatic' Source on Foreign Ties

MM2811115694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Cairo: Egypt Rejects Subservience; Relations With United States Strong"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—An Egyptian diplomatic source in Cairo has said that the United States is not Egypt's guardian, and the growing relations between the two countries are based on mutual respect and care for interests.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH the source stressed that Egyptian foreign policy is based on a national foundation and is working to serve national interests, and relations with states do not mean "subservience."

The source added that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's adviser for political affairs, is discussing during his current visit to the United States the situation in Gaza and ways of reactivating the peace process, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

He said that his country respects the resolutions of international legitimacy and is complying with them. And that suspending flights to Libya is in implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the economic sanctions imposed on Libya because of its suspected involvement in blowing up a U.S. plane over Lockerbie (Scotland) in December 1988.

The source pointed out that "the Egyptian-Libyan relationship is special in nature, because Libya is a neighboring state and there are common interests and trade ties not conflicting with the compliance with the Security Council, which imposed the ban on dealing with commodities and equipment specified in its clauses. Egypt is working to secure a peaceful solution to the Lockerbie crisis, especially since it believes that Libya has responded to the Security Council resolutions."

The Egyptian press has for the third day continued to reply to U.S. criticisms of Egypt and its president, Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Statement on Cooperation With South Africa Signed

NC2611152994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and South African today signed a joint communique on bilateral agricultural cooperation. The communique was signed for Egypt by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; and for South Africa by Agriculture Minister Van Niekerk, who is currently visiting Egypt.

The communique calls for encouraging joint agricultural projects between the two countries at the research and production levels as well exchanges on advanced agricultural research. It also includes cooperation in the field of agricultural instruction, exchanges of high-yield seeds, development of the existing cooperation on veterinary care, and exchanges of visits by agricultural experts from both countries.

Present at the signing ceremony were the South African ambassador in Cairo, Dr. 'Ali Hubaysh, president of the Academy for Scientific Research and Technology; and a number of senior officials from the agricultural sector. The South African minister and his accompanying delegation are scheduled to visit some major agricultural projects and research centers during their visit to Egypt.

Minister on Tank, Munition Production

NC2711092294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, has stated that Factory 2000, which repairs, maintains, and produces tanks, has already manufactured more than 100 American M1A1 Abrams tanks, and these are currently in use in the Armed Forces.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, he said that the tank factory was built for purely economic and military considerations after Armed Forces plans had stressed the need for a main assault tank to replace the old Soviet-made T-54 and T-55 tanks.

The minister said the factory is one of the biggest and most modern tank factories in the world. The main building alone occupies an area of 80,000 square meters, which makes it the biggest industrial facility in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Dr. al-Ghamrawi called for integrated Arab manufacturing of arms for Arab use. This is extremely important as it is the only way to ensure the availability of arms and break the monopoly, he said.

He called for a firm Arab arms production strategy that makes the best use of capabilities and expertise. He emphasized that this strategy must not be affected by political differences and sideline issues.

The minister of state for war production explained that Factory 2000 has effectively completed studies to produce the first Egyptian tracked armored vehicle to meet the demand of the Armed Forces. He said the factory received several offers from some countries that produce advanced weapons to produce this vehicle in Egypt and is now waiting the Armed Forces to decide.

On the production of ammunition, the minister said that the Armed Forces is self-sufficient for ammunition except for certain types, which represent no more than 4 percent of demand. These types are not being produced locally because of their high cost, but they can be produced when needed, he said.

Economy Minister Says Pound Not To Be Devalued

NC2811200094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade, has emphasized that Egypt and the IMF have identical views on the economic reform program. The IMF is convinced that any reform program must be one hundred percent Egyptian and serve the people's interests, he added.

In a news conference held today, Minister Mahmud stressed that there will be no devaluation of the Egyptian pound through an administrative decision. He added: We do not interfere in determining the value of the Egyptian pound or foreign currencies. He pointed out that devaluation of the Egyptian pound would have a negative impact on the price of commodities at home as well as on exports. He noted that the value of the Egyptian pound is determined by free market mechanisms and that the Central Bank intervenes only to maintain the necessary balance during abnormal circumstances, as is the case with central banks worldwide that protect their national interests. He stressed that any individual may buy as much foreign currency as he wishes from accredited banks and transfer it abroad without any restrictions.

The economy minister added that there is an increasing inflow of foreign currencies, particularly the dollar, and noted that Central Bank reserves now stand at $18 billion. He stressed the need for the dollar exchange rate in the local market to stabilize to avoid any negative impact on exports or the balance of payments. He stressed that the government seeks to encourage and boost exports. He noted that, in its dealings with the outside world, Egypt seeks to serve the national interests of the people, increase investment, and accelerate development, adding that the Economy Ministry has issued 25 decisions to ease obstacles to exporting. He noted that Egypt's imports total $11 billions, while exports total $4 billions.

Minister Mahmud pointed out that a conference will be held in Cairo soon and will be attended by a number of trade representatives from promising exporting nations to lay down a strategy to promote Egypt's exports to the markets of these nations. He noted that his ministry will reconsider its decision to exempt imported production materials from quality inspection to prevent some importers from sneaking low-quality material onto Egyptian markets.

Police Arrest 14 'Terrorists,' Kill 3 in Sweeps

NC2811165894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—The State Security Intelligence Department has dealt a new blow to the remnants of the fugitive terrorist and extremist elements, preempting their plans. It has arrested 14 terrorists and killed three others. One soldier was wounded during the intensive security sweeps which took place in several Egyptian governorates over the past 48 hours.

An authoritative security source at the Interior Ministry said these sweeps took place on the basis of available security reports and targeted a number of terrorist cells and hideouts in six governorates, namely Suhaj, Asyut, Bani Suwayf, Qina, al-Minya, and Alexandria.

Libya

Opposition Objects to Arab League's 'Courtesy'

MM2811170094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Nov 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Ghadamsi Says: Libyan People Disapprove of Arab League's Courtesy to Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamsi, official spokesman for the opposition "Coordination Committee of the Libyan National and Democratic Forces" (headed by Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni), has said that "there are growing signs of security chaos in Libya, and only God knows what the consequences will be."

In the committee's name he sent "an urgent appeal to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid" to the effect that the continuation of the factions "will—in view of the Libyan regime's feeling that it enjoys the support of the Arab League and some Arab leaders, and in view of its agonizing disregard for the Libyan people's suffering—lead to further tragedies which would certainly have the worst of effects on the security of the region as a whole."

He said that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "is personally responsible for the suffering of our homeland. The Libyan people believe that the just way to address the Libyan problem requires an emphasis on the Lockerbie crime and the need to punish the criminal. Thus we hope that you will join us in urging the [international] community to lift the sanctions on our people, isolate the regime politically, not to recognize it or its government, and to close its missions and freeze its funds. The Libyan people strongly disapprove of the courteous treatment the regime is receiving from the Arab League and some Arab officials."

Tripoli Presents Memorandum to Arab League

LD2811174694 Tripoli JANA in English 1546 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Great Jamahiriyah presented an official memorandum to the General Secretariat of League of Arab States on 20th instant and requested its distribution to all member states.

The memorandum called for the necessary action to consider the continuation of the membership of Jordan in the league after its recognition of the Israeli enemy and establishment of full relations in violation of all Arab conventions and treaties.

Full diplomatic relations were officially declared yesterday between the Jordanian Government and the Israeli enemy.

The joint communique issued yesterday said that the Jordanian Government and the enemy' desiring to build and normalize [word indistinct] of foundation, they [word indistinct] to establish full diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors as from yesterday in conformity with their accord signed on 26th Al-Tumur [October].

The communique added that relations will enhance and participate in entrenching the development of aspects of cooperation between the two sides in a manner which may achieve their interests.

Reports said that the exchange of ambassadors between the two sides was due to take place next month.

55 deputies of King Husayn's parliament signed on behalf of the Arab people of Jordan approving the treaty of capitulation [word indistinct] Jordanian Government [word indistinct] with the martyrdom spirit amongst the angry generation's revolutionaries who are leading the popular revolution.

Communications Minutes With Algeria Signed

LD2611153094 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Harth [November] 26, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Minutes of the joint Libyan-Algerian Arab meeting in the sphere of post and telecommunicetions were signed last night.

The minutes, signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Transport and Tahar Allan, the Algerian minister for post and telecommunications, include the consolidation of the current perspectives of cooperation between the two sisterly countries in a manner which may serve the interests of the Arab people in both the Great Jamahiryah and sisterly Algeria.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Transport stressed the depth of fraternal relations between the Great Jamahiryah and sisterly Algeria. He reaffirmed the importance of giving further impetus in the field of posts and telecommunications being one of the tenets of the consolidation of cooperation in all fields.

The Algerian minister for posts and telecommunications Taher Allan on his part expressed his thanks and high appreciation to the Libyan Arab people for the warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to him and the delegation accompanying him.

'Source' Responds to Article in U.S. Paper

NC2611113794 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Murad]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Libyan source in Cairo has described THE WASHINGTON POST article: "Egypt: A Friend of Washington's Shouldn't Be Dallying With Tripoli" as an attempt "to fish in troubled waters."

He added: Washington will not succeed in driving a wedge between Egypt and Libya because this attempt is obviously designed to harm Egyptian before Libyan interests.

He affirmed that relations and mutual visits between the two countries have not been affected and that work continues on dozens of Egyptian-Libyan joint projects. He explained that these projects were approved by the two countries' higher joint committee during a meeting in Cairo attended by the secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee (prime minister).

The Libyan source expressed astonishment that relations with Libya should be a source of danger to Egypt as THE WASHINGTON POST claims.

He asked: "How can this be true when Libya is in fact offering to allow one million Egyptians to come to Libya to work in agriculture and be given title deeds to the land they cultivate? Does this offer pose a threat to Egyptian interests?"

He added that Egypt and Libya are coordinating efforts in all spheres including economy, politics, and security cooperation over "the two countries' joint borders."

THE WASHINGTON POST article had urged Egypt, which has special relations with the United States and receives more than $2 billion in annual U.S. aid, not to help Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and extricate him from his involvement in what the newspaper called anti-U.S. terrorism. The paper also asked Egypt not to violate the UN sanctions on Libya by sending Egyptian goods and banned aircraft spare parts across the border.

Morocco

Rabat Venue for Heads of State, UN Meetings

Butrus-Ghali's Arrival Statement

LD2811111894 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Laayoune, 28 Nov (MAP)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived in Rabat from the city of Laayoune yesterday evening, in the framework of a visit he is paying to Morocco now within a tour of the region.

In a statement he made after his three-hour visit to the city of Laayoune, the UN official expressed the hope that the referendum would take place as soon as possible and would lead to stability, peace, and security in the region.

At the beginning, the UN secretary general thanked the governor of Laayoune-Boujdour province, Mr. Hassan Ouchene, for the hospitality and the services given to the United Nations, either regarding the buildings at the disposal of the UN or the facilities offered to it.

He said: "I paid a visit to the group which works for the registration of voters for the referendum, and we discussed the existing difficulties and the means which must be adopted to overcome those difficulties".

Butrus-Ghali added that he listened to the explanations given by the commander of the peace-keeping forces regarding the observation tasks carried out by these forces to protect the agreed ceasefire.

He said also: "I have great hope that this referendum will be held as soon as possible and that it will lead to stability, peace, and security in the region so the people are able to devote their interests to the development issue and so the two parties concerned can in their turn serve the United Nations so it can play its role."

Answering a question about Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] having reservations about the proposed solution plan, the UN secretary general said: "I cannot say anything before I visit Rabat and before I submit my report to the UN Security Council. My hope is that we overcome all the obstacles so the referendum takes place and a peaceful settlement of this issue is achieved".

About the talks he had in Algeria, he pointed out that they had dealt with several matters. "It is because there are relations between Algeria and the United Nations. These matters included the summit conference scheduled to convene in Copenhagen in March/April, and the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations."

He also said that the talks embraced the most important international issues and that he will be making similar contacts in Rabat.

On the other hand, the UN secretary general explained that he contacted his representative in Zagreb to learn about conditions in the town of Bihac and said: "I can say," Butrus-Ghali went on, "there are contacts taking place to secure a cease-fire". He also said: "My hope is to overcome the current confrontation so that we can protect the people who are bearing the heavy burden of this bloody confrontation; at the same time we must safeguard the peace process." [passage omitted.

UAE President Meets Butrus-Ghali

LD2811222794 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan called on the international community to move and face the unjust Serb aggression and save the innocent people in Bosnia.

During his meeting this afternoon at his place of residence in Rabat with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Shaykh Zayid considered the Serb aggression to be an attack on the human conscience and on human rights, and a mark of disgrace on the forehead of humanity.

During this meeting, the UAE president also discussed with Butrus-Ghali the development of the situation in the Middle East, and a number of regional and international issues, in the forefront of which was the dangerous situation in Bosnia, in addition to the peace process in the Middle East.

Mandela, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Angola

LD2811174094 Paris Radio France International in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] South African President Nelson Mandela is in Morocco for talks with King Hassan on Angola. Mandela told RFI that his country is willing to contribute to a peacekeeping force for Angola under the auspices of the United Nations.

[Begin Mandela recording] We want peace in that country and any assistance that we can make to bring about a peace we are ready to do. We will do anything that the secretary general or his special representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, requests us to do and we cannot act independently either as South Africa or as the Frontline States. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Portual's Soares Views Angola

LD2811221994 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Portuguese President Mario Soares held talks with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in a guest house in Rabat today.

The talks, which lasted for more than 30 minutes, dealt with the development of the situation in Angola and the difficulties facing the implementation of the peace agreement signed in Lusaka. The meeting was also an opportunity to exchange opinions on the possibilities of a peaceful settlement.

The meeting also dealt with the situation in Mozambique after the success of the UN experiment in this African country.

Germany Grants Aid, Loan for Projects

LD2811141794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the framework of cooperation between Morocco and Germany, an agreement on financial cooperation was signed between Morocco and the Federal Republic of Germany at the headquarters of the Ministry of Finance and Investments this morning.

According to the agreement signed by Mr. Mourad Cherif, minister of finance and investments, and German Ambassador Dr. Herwig Bartels, Morocco will be granted 65 million German marks for the execution of some agricultural and hydraulic projects. It is worth mentioning that this sum of money consists of financial aid estimated at 45 million marks, in addition to a loan of 20 million marks with very preferential conditions.

On the occasion of the signing of this agreement, his excellency the minister and the German ambassador reviewed the aspects and prospects of Moroccan-German cooperation and stressed the need to develop it.

Western Sahara

Sahraoui Coordinator Previews Butrus-Ghali Visit

LD2611220594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has been holding a closed meeting since midday today. No news about this meeting has been leaked. The meeting is taking place on the eve of the arrival of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in the liberated Sahraoui territory. Some sources say that in his briefcase are proposals on overcoming the obstacles that stand in the way of implementing the UN peace plan in Western Sahara.

More details from radio correspondent Hamza Wahib in the liberated Sahraoui territory:

[Wahib] According to some observers here, the visit might reveal UN intentions about finding a just settlement to the Western Sahara issue—a transparent settlement free from any pressure.

The Sahraoui side, however, does not expect the visit of Butrus-Ghali to the liberated territory to produce anything new. Bachir Mostafa El Said, Sahraoui coordinator to the UN mission in Western Sahara, did not conceal his pessimism before the arrival of the UN secretary general in the area. He believes the visit of Butrus-Ghali will not bring anything tangible because the protests of the Polisario on Moroccan maneuvering have not been taken into account and have not been given any consideration. [passage omitted]

The Saharoui coordinator to the UN mission believes that a direct, earnest, and responsible dialogue with Morocco is necessary for holding a plebiscite in Western Sahara. Bachir Mostafa El Said said that a date for the plebiscite should be fixed. He added that the Polisario is not prepared to accept any other settlement. [passage omitted]

The same sources added that Butrus-Ghali, who after his visit to the liberated Sahraoui territory will be going to Morocco, will try to persuade the Moroccan authorities to reach a final solution on the plebiscite. [passage omitted]

The Polisario, in the meantime, is following a wait-and-see policy and wants to see what proposals Butrus-Ghali will be bringing with him to remove the difficulties that have hindered for some months the process of fixing the identity of the voters in Western Sahara.

Butrus-Ghali Meets With President, Others

LD2711195294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After lengthy consultations with Algerian officials, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali arrived at noon today in the liberated territories, where he held talks with Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz. More details from Hamza Wahib in the liberated territories.

[Wahib] The UN secretary general concluded his visit to the Saharan liberated territories. The visit lasted a few hours, during which Butrus Butrus-Ghali met the leadership of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], headed by Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz. The meeting took place at the Saharan refugee camp in Smara and lasted about 45 minutes.

Everybody here noticed that the UN secretary general was more than one hour late arriving in Smara. The talks with the Saharan officials commenced at approximately 1245. The talks were described as positive by Butrus-Ghali, speaking at a news conference held at Tendouf airport. The UN secretary general pointed out that he will address a message to the parties concerned, in which he will ask them to hasten the referendum process.

Butrus Butrus-Ghali emphasized that in his report, to be submitted in December, he will propose to the UN Security Council the opening of 20 offices for registering and identifying the voters who would be allowed to participate in the referendum. Butrus-Ghali justified this by citing financial reasons, pointing out that the UN Security Council cannot accept a new postponement of the referendum.

In its previous meeting, the UN Security Council stressed the necessity of avoiding any new unjustified postponement of the referendum which should be held in accordance with the UN peace plan.

It is noteworthy that Butrus Butrus-Ghali left the Saharan liberated territories for Laayoune. After that he will go to Rabat where he is expected to meet the Moroccan monarch, Hassan II. Ghali's visit to Morocco will end next Wednesday.

GCC Interior Ministers Conclude Conference

Conference Chaired by Saudi Minister

LD2811132194 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1116 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 28 Nov (SPA)—At the palace of conferences in Riyadh this afternoon the Gulf Cooperation Council interior ministers ended their 13th meeting. It was chaired by [Saudi] Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Ministers Review Security Situation

LD2811221694 Riyadh SPA in English 1955 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 28, SPA—A wide-ranging review of the security situation in the light of latest regional and international developments had been explored by the interior ministers of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], who ended their 13th session at the conferences' palace in Riyadh this afternoon under the chairmanship of Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi read the final statement of the session before the gathering of the interior ministers.

During their two-day meeting, the statement said the interior ministers had reviewed the security situation of the region in the light of the latest regional and international developments.

They had discussed also the security march and expressed satisfaction over the current level of coordination and cooperation between various security bodies of the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

In order to realise more cooperation in various security spheres, the interior ministers endorsed a number of resolutions aimed at upgrading cooperation on the joint security action.

The interior ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman have signed the GCC unified security agreement and the countries that signed the documents expressed hope that the member states that have not opted for signature, would sign it soon so as to reinforce cooperation in the sphere of a comprehensive security framework between the six member states, said the statement.

The statement said the interior ministers had emphasized the reality that the security of all member countries is indivisable and that the agreement was designed to dedicate security cooperation and coordination between the GCC countries.

They stated that the completion of the agreement is another important step in the framework of the common aspirations and ambitions of the GCC citizens for closer ties at a time when all member states are working to enhance security, stability and prosperity all over the region.

The interior ministers expressed thanks and appreciation to the kingdom under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, for the excellent reception and accommodation and cited with appreciation the adequate arrangements made by Prince Nayif and the officials of the Saudi Ministry of Interior for the meeting. They also commended the efforts made by Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, secretary general of the GCC and officials of the GCC General Secretariat for the outstanding manner in which the items raised during the meeting were prepared.

Addressing the meeting, Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz thanked the interior ministers, the secretary general and personnel of the GCC General Secretariat and all those who took part in preparation and delibrations of the meeting. He congratulated them on the successful outcome foremost among it the accomplishment of the unified accord.

"No doubt, the great achievement accomplished by the GCC ministers of interior would serve the best interests of their countries and peoples, and this agreement, although it got a security shape and named as 'the security agreement', would in fact, is designed to serve all state bodies of the GCC countries and all the citizens of the GCC," Prince Nayif said. [sentence as received]

Prince Nayif expressed hope that stability and prosperity would cover the entire region and that the GCC would be a model for others.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Shaykh Muhammed Bin- Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Bahraini minister of interior expressed deep-seated thanks and gratification to King Fahd, Crown Prince al- 'Aziz, the Saudi Government and people for the cordial reception and accommodation.

He lauded the great efforts made for the perfect arrangements for the meeting as part of the leading role undertaken by the kingdom to support the march of the GCC in all fields, specially in the sphere of security.

The Bahraini interior minister cited the marvelous efforts exerted by the ministers of interior that led to fruitful and fairly good results that would certainly reflect positively on coordination and cooperation between the security bodies of member states.

He highlighted the remarkable progress achieved by the GCC interior ministries and their affiliated bodies and expressed hope that the implementation of the security agreement would further dedicate the performance of these bodies.

Saudi Minister on Qatar's Absence

LD2711233894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, interior minister and chairman of the current session of GCC interior ministers' meeting, expressed his hope that the meeting would lead to the endorsement of the security agreement.

His highness told journalists after the first session that the agenda was reviewed and endorsed during the meeting.

His highness was asked whether the absence of Qatar would affect consensus on the security agreement. He replied by saying: I do not believe so. If agreement is reached on the signing of the security agreement, I expect Qatar would sign it.

His highness expressed his hope that the GCC states would have no reservations about the clauses of the agreement. He then said: We have not yet reached this point to discuss it. So, leave this until the end of the meeting.

In reply to another question, his highness said: Anything could stem from the comprehensive security agreement. However, that does not mean we will not discuss these issues. On the contrary, we have discussed many issues and have agreed on them. There is scope for cooperation, and we have not left these issues pending until the agreement is signed. We have discussed them. However, there are issues of importance which cannot be implemented without the endorsement of the comprehensive security agreement; the most important of which is the security strategy, because the first clause of the security strategy states that the instrument for the implementation of the security strategy is the comprehensive security agreement.

His royal highness was asked to comment on Qatar's absence. He said: my comment is regret and pain. I wished to find His Excellency the dear brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani in his chair, but regrettably that did not happen.

His highness was also asked to provide an explanation for this absence, he answered by saying: this is referable to brother 'Abdallah personally, and off-course he has neither asked me, nor empowered me to talk about a decision or an issue adopted by him. I hope you would excuse me from providing an answer to a question which is not my responsibility.

His royal highness answered in the negative a question about whether Qatar's absence would impede the implementation and finalization of the security agreement. He said: I personally expect that if the brothers in the GCC ratified the security agreement, and it was signed, Qatar would not hesitate to sign it.

He added: We in Saudi Arabia and Qatar are connected with a bilateral security agreement. He pointed out that the bilateral agreement was the minimum level of the comprehensive security agreement.

In his reply to a question in connection with fishermen's boats on the GCC countries' coasts and territorial waters, his highness the interior minister said: Anyway, these issues are always discussed at the bilateral level and solved at their proper time.

Saudi Minister on Kuwait's Not Signing

LD2911104594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 94

[News conference by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz with unidentified correspondents after the 13th meeting of GCC interior ministers in Riyadh on 28 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Nayif] Praise be to God, the meetings were positive and successful. We reviewed all the items on the agenda. Agreement was reached on all the issues which were studied and approved by the security sectors, and approved by the under secretaries' committee. The high point of the meetings was the signing of a comprehensive security agreement.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, Kuwait did not sign the agreement; why did Kuwait not sign?

[Nayif] We heard from Brother Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, interior minister of brotherly Kuwait, a detailed explanation about this issue. We have a complete picture. We hope that Kuwait will sign the agreement soon. However, the time of signing is left to the State of Kuwait.

[Correspondent] What are the main points included in the comprehensive security agreement?

[Nayif] The comprehensive security agreement is, indeed, comprehensive. When we say comprehensive, we mean it. It is comprehensive because it is not confined to security. It involves security aspects of the economic, social, and cultural areas, as well as concern for the continuity of society in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and protecting it from external ideological currents and instruments which may have negative repercussions on the security aspect and on the safety of the Gulf citizens' wealth and health.

There are many aspects which we hope would give this agreement results that GCC citizens would benefit from. We also hope that this experiment would be a pioneering and useful one for our Arab nation.

We also want to have a prominent security role in the international community; a role in building and stability. We hope that this will be realized.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, did you discuss the extradition and exchange of criminals?

[Nayif] Yes, the agreement binds the signatories to hand over even the citizens of a signatory state. In other words, if a Saudi citizen committed a crime in one of the states signatory to the agreement, we would have to hand him over to that state and he would be subject to the rules and regulations of that state.

[Correspondent] Do you mean the other state?

[Nayif] The state in which the crime or felony was committed. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Minister Nayif, when do you expect the practical implementation of the security agreement to begin?

[Nayif] The security agreement has been concluded and signed. It will be endorsed at the forthcoming GCC summit conference. Then, it will reach Interior Ministries and its implementation will commence. There will be internal rules which will regulate the implementation of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Will Kuwait and Qatar sign the agreement after it has been endorsed by the GCC summit?

[Nayif] That would be up to them, naturally. They might sign it before or after the summit.

[Correspondent] Does the fact that Kuwait refrained from signing the agreement today mean there are reservations about the issue of handing over criminals?

[Nayif] As I said earlier, Brother 'Ali explained the reasons for not signing]. We are in the picture about the reasons. As mentioned in the statement, we hope that Kuwait will sign the agreement at a later date. However, that is up to the State of Kuwait. Brother 'Ali may be better acquainted with the reasons.

[Correspondent] Will the GCC summit in Bahrain be able finally to endorse the agreement if Qatar and Kuwait does not endorse it?

[Nayif] I do not believe that it would endorse it. However, the signatories would be bound to implement the agreement. The other states would be bound by the agreement when they sign it. Naturally, I am not above the summit. The summit will decide.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, extremism is an important issue in the world; as interior ministers, did you discuss the issue?

[Nayif] This matter is not tied to a specific period. There is security cooperation via the channels concerned with this issue. This exists among all the GCC states. Indeed, at every meeting we find that there is progress in this cooperation. Consequently, we review the latest developments and incidents that occur in between meetings. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It has been said that among the clauses of the security agreement there is provision for pursuing criminals inside the GCC states, and that there is reservation by some states about this point.

[Nayif] There were no reservations. Any crime... [pauses] Any harm to a signatory state cannot be tolerated in any of the countries. This applies to the presence of a person active or engaged in any activity against any of the signatory countries.

Praise be to God, the comprehensive security agreement has confirmed these matters. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Did you discuss the issue of a unified identity card to facilitate the movement of GCC citizens?

[Nayif] We discussed the issue, and we said that we hoped that it would be achieved. However, there is a need to complete the technical aspects which would make the identity card complete in terms of covering all the information required, which exist in passports but not in identity cards.

Saudi Minister Calls Conference 'Successful'

LD2811210994 Riyadh SPA in English 2010 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 28, SPA—Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior today termed as "positive and successful," results of 13th session of the GCC interior ministers, which ended its proceedings in Riyadh earlier today.

Addressing a press conference at the end of the two-day meeting in Riyadh on Monday, Prince Nayif said the interior ministers discussed all items on the agenda of the meeting.

He said the signing of the GCC security agreement demonstrated the peak of success for this session.

Answering questions on reasons that prompted Kuwait to refrain from signing the agreement, Prince Nayif said the Kuwaiti interior minister had acquainted his colleagues on the matter, adding that he expressed hope that Kuwait could sign the document shortly.

He said the agreement did not just confined to security matters only, but it covers issues that involve security in terms of economic, social and cultural aspects. "It also dealt with precautions that would protect the GCC society from destructive ideological movements and other negative currents."

Prince Nayif said the GCC states wanted to play an outstanding security role in the international community.

Asked on whether the security agreement includes clauses for extradition of criminals, Prince Nayif said if a Saudi national commit a crime in any of the countries that signed the accord, he would be extradited to that state where he would face trial under its laws. "This means that other countries that signed the agreement, have the duty of doing the same in a reciprocal manner."

Prince Nayif said the agreement would be submitted to the GCC leaders during their upcoming summit who, when approved, return it to the interior ministries for implementation, adding that its articles would be complied by the countries which signed it.

The Saudi minister of interior made it clear the GCC states are cooperating with each other through the concerned bodies on fanaticism issues.

Prince Nayif expressed hope that the Arab countries could conclude a comprehensive Arab security agreement.

Prince Nayif, who is also the honorary chairman of the Arab council of interior ministers, highlighted the performance of the council and urged the Arab concerned bodies to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the council.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Asks Iraq To Release Detainees

LD2811162894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 28 Nov (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today asked Iraq anew to immediately release Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages who are in Iraqi jails, and to implement the rest of the UN resolutions related to the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

In a statement to journalists following a meeting he held with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, he said: "We want to know where our prisoners are." He reaffirmed the importance of the subject of prisoners and hostages who are in the jails of the Iraqi regime.

In reply to a question on the steps that the Iraqi regime should take in the future, Shaykh Sabah replied "that the statement of the Kuwaiti Cabinet on the recognition of Kuwait considered that step as being important and needed to be followed by other steps to acknowledge all the UN resolutions." He pointed out the necessity of Iraq's recognition of all the UN resolutions, including the one relating to the release of prisoners.

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah said that he had informed "the committee of the results of the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Foreign Ministers, which recently convened in Bahrain," and the expectations of the members for the GCC summit in Bahrain on 13 and 14 December.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Session Focuses on GCC Meeting in Riyadh

LD2811213894 Riyadh SPA in English 1939 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 28, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, presided over the Council of Ministers' regular weekly session at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh this afternoon, which focused on the outcome of key ministerial meetings held during the last few days with Saudi Arabia's participation.

Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz had briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the 13th session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] interior ministers and noted the prevalence of the brotherly atmosphere during the two-day conference of the GCC interior ministers, which ended its deliberations in Riyadh earlier today.

Prince Nayif explained the details of the unified security agreement which was signed by the interior ministers.

For his part, Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources briefed the Cabinet on the results of the recently held meeting of OPEC's Ministerial Council in Bali, Indonesia.

Nazir said the Bali meeting had unanimously approved a proposal presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to freeze the current production ceiling of the cartel for one more year.

Al-Sha'ir said King Fahd had also briefed the Council on the nature of his meetings with King Juan Carlos of Spain, Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, and the contents of a message he had received from President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

The Saudi monarch had termed the meetings as "positive, constructive and successful."

King Fahd also raised a number of political and economic issues and offered some solutions and suggestions that would help the government to increase income and meet requirements and obligations of the Kingdom and reasons that necessitate such steps.

The Cabinet also reviewed a number of issues submitted by the Shura (Advisory) Council and took proper decisions on them.

It also reviewed several domestic items relating to public services of citizens and called for providing adequate job opportunities for citizens according to their capabilities and qualifications.

The Cabinet approved some appointments to grade 14th at the National Guard, the General Intelligence and the Higher Education Ministry.

Yemen

'Source' Denies Saudi Opposition Figure Sought Refuge

JN2711211794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 27 Nov (INA)—A responsible Yemeni source tonight denied reports that Saudi opposition member Muhammad al-Mas'ari has sought refuge in Yemen after he got an entry visa from the British Embassy in Yemen.

In statements here, the Yemeni source said these reports are baseless, denying al-Mas'ari has arrived in Yemen and sought refuge in it.

The BBC today claimed the Saudi opposition member has obtained an entry visa from the British Embassy in Sanaa.

The Yemeni source said Yemen does not receive on its territory opposition persons or forces from any Arab country out of its principled policy [words indistinct] and noninterference in the domestic affairs of any fraternal or friendly country.

Saddam Husayn Chairs Cabinet Session 28 Nov

JN2911114194 Baghdad INA in English 0905 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 29, INA—President Saddam Husayn chaired on Monday [28 November] a new cabinet meeting.

President Husayn said during the meeting "Iraq's enemies have experienced the most sophisticated weapons against this country and their wicked goals were doomed to failure and then they imposed a comprehensive blockade on August 6, 1990, which is an act of the aggressive war in accordance with the international law, what was the result? Have they ended the will and the resolve of the Iraqis?".

The president further said "The enemies also experienced another arm to carry out the economic sabotage, starting from the money counterfeiting and smuggling the animal resource with a view to creating social and psychological subvertive phenomena, but did they benefit from these means?

The cabinet had discussed a host of topics, including some organizational affairs in the agricultural sector and adopted the appropriate decisions.

Minister Accuses U.S. of Waging 'Oil War'

AU2911130694 Munich FOCUS in German 28 Nov 94 p 298

[Interview with Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by Cristina Erck; place and date not given: "United States Is Waging Oil War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Erck] With Kuwait's recognition by Baghdad, an important demand of the UN Security Council after the Gulf War has been fulfilled. Do you now expect the trade embargo against your country to be lifted?

[Hammadi] Taking stock, we see that Iraq has fulfilled the most important demands of the UN resolutions: Destruction of the mass destruction weapons, long-term surveillance, and Kuwait's recognition. The oil embargo ought to be lifted.

[Erck] The United Nations granted Iraq the limited sale of oil. Why did Baghdad not accept that?

[Hammadi] In 1992 we agreed with the UN Secretariat to sell oil valued at $1.6 billion. The U.S. Administration blocked that. According to its plan, the whole Iraqi nation had to live like in a single refugee camp. Right from the beginning, we realized the reason for the trade embargo. Now it is clear to the whole world: The United States wants to achieve with pressure what it has not accomplished by military means.

[Erck] What does the United States want to achieve?

[Hammadi] Our oil resources are the second largest after Saudi Arabia, and our production costs are the lowest in the world. With the reserves that we can discover in the next three to four years, in the opinion of experts, we will be number one. The demand for oil will increase all over the world in the next 15 years. The United States and Great Britain want to starve the Iraqi people in order to overthrow the regime. This is the "new world order." This is an oil war and all the talk about human rights is only a pretext. In fact, the Americans want to lay their hands on all energy sources. Not only in our region, but in the whole world.

[Erck] Was not the invasion of Kuwait also an oil war?

[Hammadi] The Iraqis look back on 6,000 years of civilization, they have an industry of their own, they know their rights, and love their country. They do not need to seize some other country.

[Erck] When will you return to OPEC?

[Hammadi] The demand for oil will increase so much in the next few years that prices will have to be drastically increased without Iraqi oil. We will return to OPEC, whether it wants it or not. It is not we who run to the others, they come to us. Even U.S. businessmen are again frequent visitors here. Not the United States and Great Britain, but Iraq will lift the embargo. Where should the additional daily production of 25 million barrels that will be required by 2010 come from? In this imminent development nothing can be done without us.

Editor on Albright Remarks on Satellite Photos

JN2411183094 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Hani Wuhayyib: "The Edifices of Construction Shall Rise High"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. and Zionist hostility to Iraq is basically hostility to construction. Iraq alone, guided by the ideas of its historical leader Saddam Husayn, has been able to explore new fields of construction. Since the dawn of the revolution, Iraq has been building on the two pillars of spirit and matter, not just matter alone.

Iraq has avoided many twisted concepts and applications which made material building take precedence over spiritual building, or vice versa. Iraqi construction has also avoided many experiments that used development for consumption purposes and wasted funds on achieving prosperity and comfort while ignoring the requirements of building a material base which is on a par with a spiritual base as a firm guarantee for building the edifice of the future.

Thanks to the sharp, strategic mentality of its thinker leader Saddam Husayn, Iraq was the first to avoid economic building "stereotypes" under the well-known cliches of a peace economy and a war economy. Iraq adopted the policy of development under fire while confronting the Iranian aggression in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah. In the immortal Mother of Battles, Iraq launched its counter-offensive against the aggression and, at the same time, succeeded through the creative mind of its struggler leader Saddam Husayn and the mighty extraordinary efforts of its people to reconstruct in record time the projects, bridges, roads, and power stations destroyed by the aggressors. Lofty edifices of construction rose high. The al-Jumhuriyah Bridge was reconstructed, the al-Tahaddi [Defiance] Tower and the two-tier al-Qa'id [leader] Bridge were built, and the hanging bridge is about to be completed with purely Iraqi capabilities. Rivers were dug, lands were reclaimed, and the list is still longer.

In view of all that, and as the thinker leader Saddam Husayn said during the 25th session of the cabinet: "The U.S. Administration is perturbed by the reconstruction, because we are building and also remaining steadfast under siege. The U.S. Administration and the Zionists do not want the Iraqis to gain more confidence and pride under the conditions of the blockade, but want them to despair, become frustrated, and weep over the debris and ruins. All of Iraq has become a beehive of activity, from the factory to the school."

This is what has infuriated Albright who, carried away by her technological advancement and overwhelmed by the photos of Iraqi palaces taken by her spy satellites, went about "jabbering meaninglessly" [tahrifu bi ma la ta'rifu] with a sterile and rude mentality. They failed to notice that Iraq, from one extreme end to the other, is a thick forest of building columns which look magnificent to the righteous onlookers, but infuriate the savages and suckers of peoples' blood who live on ill-gotten possessions. She even begrudged lifting the blockade, claiming that Iraq has sufficient funds to feed its people.

This strongly poses the following question: Does the possession of funds by states and peoples justify the imposition of an embargo on them or the continuation of such an embargo?!

Under what logic do the U.S. Administration, Albright and the other so-called advocates of civilization and progress speak?!

Any sensible persons cannot see anything in this logic other than the collapse of the introvert, backward capitalist mentality which wants money and prosperity for itself only. As far as it is concerned, it does not matter if the rest of the world lives in misery and backwardness.

Albright's sterile mentality has aroused the ridicule, disdain, and contempt of the Russian UN representative, who wondered about the palaces' relationship with the subject under discussion. He said: The palaces are not mentioned in the UN resolutions. This has made the debate a subject of derision and ridicule.

Thus, America's ill-will and hatred against Iraq, its brave leader, and lofty edifice and its insistence on fighting Iraqi construction and doing more harm to the heroic Iraqi people through its mean endeavor to prolong the embargo have become clear. This means that brave Iraqis must assume the responsibility of redoubling their efforts with a high struggle spirit in order to elevate the edifices of construction in all fields. They must strengthen the base of national industrial and agricultural production by seeking alternatives through the creativity of the enlightened and mature brain, which has set the bases for solid economic development and rationalized consumption. The Iraqis have deduced the correct methods of sound economic behavior in the present and after the embargo, which will collapse with the resolution of our creative leader Saddam Husayn and all zealous Iraqis and with the support of all righteous people in the world who have exposed the U.S. stand. This stand has been further isolated and exposed, thanks to Iraq's exposure of all the false arguments which the U.S. Administration has used in a biased manner in order to prolong the embargo. Through its balanced political and economic policies, Iraq has pulled the rug from underneath the feet of the Americans and their collaborators. Iraqi stands have placed them in a tight corner in which they cannot remain long.

Certainly, elevating the edifices of construction and expanding the base of national production are sufficient to defeat the despicable U.S. stand and to erode the embargo, which will inevitably be lifted with the Iraqi people's struggle and patience, in not a very long time. The eyes of the brave Iraqis shall gladly witness the dawn of the great final victory and the crossing to the bank of a bright future. The evil forces shall be defeated.

God supports the heroic strugglers.

'Hizballah of Iraq' Said To Have 'Unified' Resistance

MM2811161294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Spokesman Tells AL-HAYAH: 'Hizballah of Iraq' Has Unified 'Resistance Commands' in South"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—'Uqayl Muhammad al-Ghalibi has revealed the formation of a new organization in Iraq called "Hizballah of Iraq" [hizballah al-'iraq], saying that he is its "authorized spokesman."

He confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the "field commands of the jihad factions" in southern Iraq have unified and "are now rallying around one decisionmaking pivot under the name Hizballah of Iraq." He added: "Our aims include defending Iraq's independence and territorial integrity." He vowed to continue the resistance until President Saddam Husayn's regime is "toppled."

He pointed out that these unified commands "stress their adoption of the openness line, which accommodates all the operating sincere and faithful capabilities. They will step up the struggle and resistance march within the framework of a comprehensive plan away from narrow factional, sectarian, and partisan sensitivities."

He told AL-HAYAH that all these commands are present "on Iraq's territory in the domains of the daily struggle, and they announce their willingness to accommodate all the resistance factions from among our people's sons who are sincere in their collective action. They never tire of offering interpretations and opinions as long as they are all part of the liberation plan. And they believe that the people—in all their Islamic and nationalist factions—are facing one tyrannical enemy, namely Saddam, the dictator of the age."

Prominent Iraqi opposition officials have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that they are "in contact" with the new organization, and that they "trust it." One of them said that the new organization's commands "are in the field and active in the marshlands and the other southern areas."

Al-Ghalibi went on: "All these factions have to be in the field to coordinate their action in order to achieve the common aim—toppling the tyrannical regime, rescuing the people, and helping them to freely determine their future." He pointed out that the new organization "fully understand the changes in international politics. And since we are part of this world and we have rights, we urge the honorable and civilized people of the world not to allow the oppressor to continue to annihilate the struggling people, destroy Iraq, hit sacred sites, and violate all human and civilized values."

Al-Ghalibi condemned the regime in Baghdad and pointed to "its big crime of executing Iraq's ulema and thinkers, first and foremost Martyr Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr." He said that the regime's "expansionist policies pushed the Iraqi people into the furnace of the unjust war with the Islamic Republic of Iran. And it repeated its foolishness by occupying the territory of Kuwait, the peaceful Arab neighboring country." He added: "Our understanding of our relations with neighboring states proceeds from our Islamic principles and human values." He put the emphasis on "eliminating the nightmare weighing heavily on Iraq so that we can coexist in security and peace—away from interference in the affairs of others—and extricate the region from the circle of tension."

Al-Ghalibi told AL-HAYAH that forces belonging to the new organization engaged at the end of August in a three-day battle with Divisions 14 and 18 of the Iraqi Republican Guard in Abu 'Ashrah, al-Sihhayn, and al-Hadi [as transliterated] in the marshland of al-'Amarah in central Euphrates.

He added that the Republican Guard's main attack was in al-Saykal area on 28 August. "So the resistance forces confronted them, and the fighting lasted nine hours." He confirmed that the attackers "were forced" to retreat after "a large number of the enemy's forces had been killed."

He pointed out that government forces resumed the attack the following day. They bombarded "all Marshland areas, causing huge fires." He said that "fierce fighting took place in al-Saykal and was led by Martyr Abu-Hatim al-Muhammadawi and his brothers." The attack ended the following day with the government forces's retreat, "leaving behind 15 burning tanks and armored vehicles and the bodies of 95 soldiers and officers."

Clandestine Radio Reports on 'Government-in-Exile'

NC2811172194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing knowledgeable sources in the Iraqi opposition, the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY [KUNA] has reported that several factions of the Iraqi opposition are currently discussing the possibility of declaring a provisional Iraqi government-in-exile and forming a unified army preparatory to overthrowing the dictatorial regime in Baghdad.

The same sources said that if this proposal is approved on the international and regional levels, a new phase of the political and military struggle will begin against the 'Aflaqite regime. The sources said that a U.S. delegation recently met with a number of the Iraqi opposition leaders to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi opposition delegation is due in Kurdistan next week to discuss the same issue with the internal opposition forces.

Opposition Expects 'Assassination Campaign' Abroad

MM2811170294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Expects Organized Assassination Campaign Abroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Ankara, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi opposition sources have warned of an organized campaign to assassinate Iraqi political figures abroad. They said that an assassination squad consisting of three men and one woman are now outside Iraq and trying to cross into European states where political opposition figures live.

The (opposition's) Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation said that the Iraqi Government is continuing its arrests of military and civilian oppositionists in the areas of Baghdad, Mosul, and al-Anbar, and that there is great concern about the fate of the detainees because the regime is maintaining its persecution of the people and its ill treatment of those opposed to the government, especially in detention. It said that the families of the detainees want to draw the attention of the Security Council and the world's human rights organizations to the conditions of the detainees.

It gave the names of 39 detainees recently arrested, including a pilot with the rank of staff brigadier general, a doctor with the rank of colonel, and 10 other officers with ranks ranging from first lieutenant to lieutenant colonel.

The statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a copy in London, said that 27 of the detainees were from Mosul where a large number of military personnel and civilians were arrested and some of them were executed on the charge of plotting a coup.

Execution of Men of Religion Reported

NC2811155894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling regime in Baghdad executed a group of men of religion and mosque preachers during the last few days. The execution follows a wide-scale campaign launched by the regime's security service in some of Iraq's western and eastern governorates. including Karkuk, Mosul, and Baghdad.

According to Iraqi sources, those executed include men of religion who lashed out at the ruling regime's policy during Friday sermons.

Kurdistan Parliament Accepts Government Resignation

NC2511182294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Parliament decided at its extraordinary meeting on 24 November to accept the resignation of the Kurdistan government, which was submitted yesterday. The parliament requested the prime minister and ministers to continue to do their administrative tasks until a new government is formed. The text of the decision follows:

In the name of the people; the National Council in Iraq's Kurdistan; decision no. 29, dated 24 November 1994.

The National Council of Iraq's Kurdistan held an extraordinary session on 24 November to review and discuss the resignation memorandum submitted by the government of Kurdistan region on 24 November. The following decisions were made:

1. To accept the resignation of the Kurdistan government;
2. To let the prime minister and the members of the Council of Ministers continue doing their administrative tasks until a new Council of Ministers is formed in the region;
3. This decision is effective as of the date of issuance. It will be published in the official newspaper.

[Signed] Jawhar Namiq Salim, chairman of the National Council in Kurdistan.

Prime Minister Kusret 'Abdallah Rasul submitted the resignation of his government to the parliament yesterday.

Rabin: 'Fundamentalism Is Our Only Enemy'

BR2811142994 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 26 Nov 94 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Georgina Higueras in Oviedo; date not given: "Rabin: 'Fundamentalism Is Our Only Enemy'"—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A heavy smoker, Yitzhak Rabin lights one cigarette after another while the words issue from his mouth slowly but with the force of a steamroller. He is speaking during the flight from Madrid to Oviedo where he is to pick up the Prince of Asturias prize. He is 72 years old and the whole history of Israel appears engraved in the deep lines of his face. He was a man of war as a soldier and led the Tsahal (the Hebrew Army) in the conquest of his beloved Jerusalem in 1967. Today he is working so that his people can live in peace, even at the price of giving up what was won. After four armed struggles, Rabin now believes that the time of war has passed and that now Israel's only enemy is Islamic terrorism.

[Higueras] Which do you fear more: war or terrorism?

[Rabin] Terrorism is the bigger problem. Israel is militarily very strong and our potential enemy, Syria, is participating in the peace process. The threat now comes from the enemies of peace, from the extremist fundamentalists. Islamic terrorism is our only enemy and, in the long term, Iran's attempt to obtain a conventional as well as non-conventional military capacity.

[Higueras] In just two years as head of government, you have given up Gaza, Jericho, and several hundred kilometers along the border with Jordan. Will you also be returning the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem?

[Rabin] We have a temporary agreement with the Palestinians which is aimed at giving them control of their land. We are starting with Gaza and Jericho and we will continue with the whole of the West Bank, but we will be discussing the terms of the final agreement, such as borders, Jerusalem, refugees, and other important points, in May 1996. Where the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan is concerned, we have not given any ground. We had an international border mapped out by the British and recognized in the armistice signed in 1949 and we are committed to that. With regard to Syria, we have accepted the principle of a withdrawal although no decision has been taken as to the extent of this. For the time being there is still no agreement between Israel and Syria on what the border of peace will be.

[Higueras] But is giving back the land the price of peace?

[Rabin] The price of peace includes the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights but the extent of this has not yet been agreed on.

[Higueras] Peace with Jordan, signed on 26 October, came sooner than predicted. How soon will there be peace with Syria?

[Rabin] I do not know. Peace with Damascus is harder. We have our differences and there is one fundamental difference on how we can achieve peace. For peace between Egypt and Israel we needed secret talks. With the Palestinians we met secretly for six months. We did not have any problems with Jordan about secret talks, but Syria insists on the United States mediating between us and this is complicating things enormously.

[Higueras] Are you still prepared to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Rabin] With al-Asad, his foreign minister, or any other functionary.

[Higueras] What will you do with the 13,000 settlers in the Golan Heights who are radically opposed to this area being returned?

[Rabin] Some settlements will have to be dismantled, but we will find a solution. That is not a problem, there are many other issues on which Israel and Syria do not agree and if we cannot find a solution to these then there will be no peace.

[Higueras] Yasir 'Arafat accuses you of postponing the Palestinian elections for no reason.

[Rabin] That surprises me. A little more than two weeks ago we met and agreed to discuss the second phase of the provisional agreement on the West bank which includes Palestinian elections, the withdrawal of Israeli troops, the acceleration of Palestinian self-rule, and the security of Israeli forces on the external borders and for the Jewish settlements in the zone. Everything forms part of the same package and we have started negotiations as we agreed.

[Higueras] The elections were planned for July. When do you think they could be held?

[Rabin] I cannot give you an exact date—it depends on how prepared people are to find solutions. Elections will form part of the West Bank package and, in our opinion, the security issue is much more difficult in the West Bank than it was in Gaza. Moreover, we have to take the events in Gaza into account, that is to say the Hamas and Islamic Jihad uprising since, to some extent, it showed that the Palestinian Authority is incapable of controlling and preventing chaos.

[Higueras] Do you mean that the Palestinian Authority cannot keep the peace in the West Bank?

[Rabin] I do not say that they are incapable of it. I judge by the results. I think they need a much bigger force than the one they have put together to date to improve the situation in Gaza. They must at least try. I believe that they are capable, but it is up to them to decide how to use the capacity they have.

[Higueras] 'Arafat says Iran is behind what is happening in Gaza.

[Rabin] Today the enemies of peace are the extremist Islamic fundamentalists, and in Palestine that means Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. They are part of a much wider terrorist network that goes from Algeria to Libya via Egypt and Sudan. The inspiration behind these movements is the Khomeini-less Khomeini-ism as practiced in Iran.

[Higueras] So you too blame Iran for what is happening in Gaza?

[Rabin] The Islamic extremist movements are the enemies of peace. They cause the terror and are behind 'Arafat's opponents.

[Higueras] How can these fundamentalists be stopped?

[Rabin] In the West Bank, which remains under our control, it is our responsibility. In Gaza and Jericho it is the responsibility of 'Arafat and his autonomous government.

[Higueras] However, it was Israeli repression that generated this breeding ground for fundamentalism.

[Rabin] I do not agree. The wave of radical fundamentalism is relatively new. You cannot blame the Arab-Israeli conflict for the fact that the Islamists have virtually won control in Algeria. They rule in Sudan and there is no Israeli repression there, and they are gaining in influence in Lebanon but we are not to blame there either. You have to look at the fundamentalist phenomenon in a wider context. What I am saying is that now they are stronger in Gaza and Jericho than they were when we were there.

[Higueras] Do you think that Gaza and, later, the West Bank will fall to the fundamentalists?

[Rabin] I can assure you that we are using much more effective measures against the fundamentalists than the Palestinian Authority.

[Higueras] Do you not think that the process of radicalization can be stopped by helping the Palestinians develop?

[Rabin] We are most concerned that they do develop, but it is the countries that pledged $2,200 million over five years after the signing of the 1993 Washington agreement that have not kept their promises. This is because the donors demand transparency with regard to what the money is spent on and 'Arafat and his people have not provided this transparency, neither to them nor to us. On 30 November when the donating countries meet again to grant Gaza $125 million, they want to see the Palestinian Authority meeting the donors' requirements insofar as ensuring that the money is spent on real projects and does not end up in someone else's pocket half way down the road. To date we have given them $20 million and we are prepared to keep our promises.

[Higueras] You have already shaken the hand of 'Arafat and King Husayn. Will you find it hard to shake the hand of Hafiz al-Asad?

[Rabin] Not in the least. Sometimes you can make peace with your bitterest enemies and we are prepared to do just that.

[Higueras] Will you cease being enemies?

[Rabin] We hope so. We would be deluding ourselves if we thought that diplomatic peace is capable of ending years of hate and suspicion, but without this diplomatic peace we cannot start the process of reducing and eliminating all this prejudice.

[Higueras] Who is making this peace, Yitzhak Rabin the soldier or Yitzhak Rabin the diplomat?

[Rabin] I do not distinguish between the two. I have seen the cruel face of war but I am ready for defense when necessary. Now I am fighting the enemies of peace, the Islamic extremists of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and the Hizballah, but at the same time I am trying to obtain peace. Many Israelis tell me that I promise them peace but have brought them more terror, and so they ask for this process to be stopped. However, I am determined to fight terrorism using all the means available and, at the same time, continuing with the peace process, since stopping this would only hand victory to the Islamic terrorists.

Rabin Says Syria Talks 'Stuck' on All Levels

TA2811192394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the negotiations with the Syrians are stuck, as he put it, with regard to all its four components: security arrangements, normalization, timetables, and the peace border. In the prime minister's opinion, seven or eight months will pass before it becomes clear where the negotiations are headed. He added that if arrangements are not consolidated by the end of 1995, it will be impossible to pursue the process in the current format.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister made these remarks in a meeting with Golan settlers. They described the meeting as particularly difficult, because the prime minister informed them that he does not intend to halt the negotiations with the Syrians. According to them, they informed Rabin that they would act against him with all the legal and democratic means at their disposal and that they intend to bring about his downfall. Rabin replied to them: That is legitimate. Nevertheless, the prime minister expressed understanding of the difficulties of living with the uncertainty stemming from the political process.

'Higher Level' Talks Necessary

TA2911121594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli officials say they will agree to resume the peace talks with Syria only once there is something to talk about. Prime Minister Rabin says Israel and Syria have not even succeeded in opening a serious dialogue. Following the statement by Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that Israel had turned down a request to resume the direct talks in Washington, Israel says it depends on the upcoming trip to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The Prime Minister's Office says it does not reject the resumption of peace negotiations with Syria. It certainly prefers direct talks to mediation.

But Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is quoted by an official from inside the closed forum of yesterday's Labor Knesset caucus meeting as saying we do not have the beginning of a serious dialogue with the Syrians. Rabin maintained there is no progress on the major subjects which include security arrangements, the phases of an Israeli Golan Heights withdrawal and normalization. There has only been what he called inconsequential progress.

An aide to the prime minister says that at the Washington talks which the Syrians want to resume, the two sides sat for months on end with Israel asking the Syrians what do you mean by peace and the Syrians responding time after time: withdraw from the Golan and we will talk about it. Until they reached a point, the prime minister's aide said, where they came to the conclusion that there was no reason to go on. Israel, he says, is demanding that the talks be serious and move the process forward.

The Prime Minister's Office says that without higher-level negotiations, in other words on the ministerial level, there will not be substantial progress. In the meantime, the American mediation effort continues. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is at this point scheduled to arrive in Damascus next Monday and in Israel Tuesday night or Wednesday of next week. [end recording]

Security Principles Not To Be Compromised

TA2911120494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the gaps between Israel and Syria were still large and concern Israel's security. While participating in the inauguration of the Kfar Hayaroq overpass near Ramat Hasharon, Mr. Rabin told reporters that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was mistaken if he thought we would abandon these security principles.

Rabin Comments on Peace Talks, Tension in Labor

TA2811171294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says there are no holy dates in implementing the Israel-PLO peace deal. The prime minister made the comment in a meeting with his Labor Party faction in the Knesset. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ruled out stopping the negotiations with the Palestinians on the next stage of self-rule, elections for the Palestinian Council, and the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank. But both outside the Labor caucus meeting and inside, according to a Labor Party official, the prime minister repeated that Israel will be firm in its security demands, even if it means a delay in moving with the Palestinians. The prime minister is quoted as repeating his phrase that there are no holy dates. But to stop the talks, said Rabin to reporters, would be the biggest possible victory for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani called on Rabin to slow the pace of implementation in light of the increase of Israelis killed in terrorist attacks, though Rabin countered that most were killed in attacks within Israel proper, not under Palestinian rule.

The prime minister was called upon to respond to his criticism of cabinet ministers. Speaking to reporters, Rabin dodged the question whether, if he were starting over again now, he would appoint the same ministers.

Inside the caucus room, MK Hagay Merom took on the prime minister. Merom accused Rabin of at times doing a terrible job in presenting the government's case. Ministers, he went on, are threatened with a reshuffle. Such rumors and uncertainty are intolerable. Prime Minister Rabin responded that his criticism of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir was at a cabinet meeting, not in public. And he said he had informed the cabinet that there will be no ministerial changes. But, nevertheless, Rabin recommended that an additional meeting take place with ministers and MK's at his office to air out the differences. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 28 November carries a related report, which adds: "Prime Minister Rabin said that settlers in Judaea and Samaria demand that their settlements be merged into blocs, such as the Qatif Bloc, but he said that he has no intention of executing such a proposal. He added that Israel would not budge from its position concerning the relocation of settlements and that even if they pose a problem Israel would continue to act in accordance with the agreement with the Palestinians."]

Rabin Aide on Peace Process, Sees No Alternative

BR2911112794 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 2 Dec 94 p 127

[Interview with Leslie Susser, director of Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center, by Fiamma Nirenstein in Tel Aviv; date not given: "Either Peace or Peace"—first paragraph is PANORAMA introduction]

[Text] Leslie Susser is one of Israel's major experts on Arab affairs. Director of the Moshe Dayan Center of Middle Eastern Studies in the University of Tel Aviv, he accompanied [Prime Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin on his trip to America in July, and is one of the men behind the peace process. PANORAMA met with him at his institute. The telephone rang incessantly, a sign of the concerns of Arab and Israeli politicians and intellectuals.

[Nirenstein] Could recent events undermine the peace process?

[Susser] Possibly. The choice made by 'Arafat and Rabin is facing its greatest challenge, its most feared and anticipated stretch. This is the moment of truth.

[Nirenstein] What is the truth about the strength of fundamentalism? What is Israel's capacity for respecting the commitments it has made?

[Susser] The basic truth, over which everything can collapse, is 'Arafat's strength. He is a prisoner caught in a deadly vice: On the one hand, he does not want to go down in history as the man who spilled his brothers' blood—'Arafat the collaborator. He would like to keep a soft position by reaching an agreement with Hamas. However, the risk is that terrorism will intensify. Israeli public opinion could take away its trust in him. And in Rabin too, along with him.

[Nirenstein] Are they bound to the same fate?

[Susser] Yes. It is strange because the two leaders can barely stand each other. That is the way it is: Without 'Arafat, Rabin has no chance of succeeding with his peace plan. And if 'Arafat loses Israeli support, he will become the prey of a public opinion that does not like him much. In Gaza 'Arafat does not have the same halo he did when he was in exile in Tunis.

[Nirenstein] So why is he still the only possible interlocutor for peace?

[Susser] He is the only symbol of the Palestinian cause. He is identifiable as a leader who could still reestablish his authority by putting peace back on track. 'Arafat still has to gain control of power by reaching an agreement with Hamas.

[Nirenstein] Otherwise?

[Susser] Otherwise terrorism will spread, a condition which is unacceptable for Israel. The advantage to Israelis in exchange for peace consists almost solely of decreased personal risks.

[Nirenstein] Is Hamas—a force motivated by ideology, motivated not only by power but also by proselytization—prepared for this?

[Susser] Hamas is also a popular force. It does not want to go down in history as a heard of wild beasts thirsty for Palestinian blood [as published].

[Nirenstein] Is Israel prepared to agree to the elections, to talk about the territories, and to encourage the flow of money into Gaza? 'Arafat accuses Rabin of tricking him, of taking a lot without giving anything, and of letting Gaza die in poverty and anger.

[Susser] You have mentioned elements which are essential to peace, but different in themselves. The elections will be held soon: It is to everyone's benefit to put democracy back into motion. On the other hand the issue of the territories will not be pushed forward. Gaza and Jericho have an obvious experimental aspect as far as we are concerned. Rabin's thinking may be: 'Arafat cannot control Gaza, so how can he control the territories? As for money, it is not easy to open a flow of dollars to Gaza under these conditions. Who in America or Europe would invest there?

[Nirenstein] Syrian President al-Asad must be pleased that the Oslo agreements are fraying.

[Susser] And he would be wrong: If peace does not work, Israeli public opinion will become radicalized, and the Golan Heights will never be given up.

[Nirenstein] What about Egypt and Jordan?

[Susser] They could have repercussions: In Egypt part of the intelligentsia and the population is still against the Camp David accords; and King Husayn has a 70-percent Palestinian population. But however much anti-Israeli hatred Hamas stirs up, peace is not at risk.

[Nirenstein] Can everything be blocked on the Palestinian and Syrian-Lebanese fronts?

[Susser] Let us look at the past: the expulsion of 415 Hamas members in winter 1992, Lebanon's Katyushe rockets, the Hebron massacre, the beastly attacks, like the one on the Number 5 bus in Tel Aviv, and others. Each time we said the peace process is finished. That was not true.

[Nirenstein] Why?

[Susser] There is no choice? Either that, or disaster for everyone.

Peres Accuses Iran of Funding Hamas, Jihad

BR2811150694 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 27 Nov 94 p 13

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Eric Salerno in Tel Aviv; date not given: "Peres: Tehran Is Financing Terrorism"—first paragraph is IL MESSAGGERO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iran of Islamic theocracy is financing terrorism, in the Middle East but not only there. And, unfortunately, many in the international community prefer to turn a blind eye to the ayatollahs' role so that they can make money. The denunciation comes from Shim'on Peres. Israel's foreign minister will be in Italy for an official visit on Wednesday [30

November]. 'Arafat has accused Tehran of spurring on the terrorists of Hamas and "Islamic Jihad." Peres backs these allegations up and broadens the issue. "We are at the beginning of a peace process and we have to do all we can to help the Palestinians implement it." On 10 December, the head of Jerusalem's diplomatic service (together with Prime Minister Rabin and the president of the Palestinian Authority) will receive the Nobel peace prize in Oslo. We meet him in his Tel Aviv regional office, in the entrance to which hangs a large color photograph of the peace ceremony on the White House lawn. On another wall, framed together, hang scenes from a more distant past, when the young Peres, as a disciple of Ben Gurion, was taking his first steps in politics.

[Salerno] Mr. Peres, the Nobel prize is a major accolade. Is peace with the Palestinians a reality, or is it in danger of becoming a matter of dispute again?

[Peres] We have left the state of war behind us. We have addressed, to date with success, one of the most complicated, perhaps the most complicated, issues in the 20th century, the Palestinian problem. We have signed the peace treaty with Jordan, and the Casablanca economic conference has marked another major stage. We are not at the end of the journey, but neither are we still at the beginning.

[Salerno] What about peace with Syria?

[Peres] Unfortunately, the negotiations are not moving ahead with the speed that we should have liked.

[Salerno] Then let us talk about the Palestinians. Do you think you will see the day when you will reach true, complete peace with them?

[Peres] Without the slightest doubt.

[Salerno] What proposals will you put to 'Arafat when you see him in Brussels tomorrow? Why do you not negotiate a final agreement at once?

[Peres] Impossible. The first item on the agenda would be Jerusalem, and, as things are today, we cannot reach an understanding on Jerusalem. However, the solution will emerge with the passing of time. There are two items on the Brussels agenda. First there is the economic question: How to bring in the funds promised by the donor countries and encourage urgent investments in Gaza. Then there is the matter of the forthcoming Palestinian elections and the continuation of the handing over of powers.

[Salerno] But will there be elections? 'Arafat is accusing you of shilly-shallying.

[Peres] I think so.

[Salerno] What does that mean? When?

[Peres] "When?" is a question for the journalists, not for the politicians. It does not depend on one side only, it depends on them and on us. Perhaps it will take a little longer.

[Salerno] If Hamas and Jihad so wished, could they take part in the vote?

[Peres] They want to destroy Israel and they want to destroy peace. If that is what they want, why should they take part in the elections?

[Salerno] The elections are an internal matter. How can Israel claim the right to say that the fundamentalists cannot take part in them?

[Peres] It is written in the "Declaration of Principles." We have to reach an agreement on the nature of the elections: on how many can be elected, and on whether they will elect an executive or a legislative council. By the way, we want an executive body.

[Salerno] If anything were to happen to 'Arafat, do you consider that there are other Palestinians capable of conducting the process?

[Peres] We have made peace with the Palestinian people. Not with all of them, but with the majority. And I believe that the number will grow in time. 'Arafat is not the owner of the Palestinian people: He represents them, and there are others who share his views.

[Salerno] Let us get back to Hamas and Jihad. Talking with Rabin, 'Arafat has accused Iran of financing the Islamic terrorists in Gaza. What must the international community do to counter the Tehran regime?

[Peres] All responsible countries should get together and force Iran to change its basic policy. Iran terrorizes and tells lies. Some countries, for reasons of expediency, in order to do business, take the lies at face value. Iran has its finger in the pie in all the destabilization campaigns in the West. They finance subversive activities and support terrorist organizations. And each time they deny it. These lies cannot continue to be swallowed as if they were the truth.

[Salerno] In your talks in Italy, you will discuss relations between Israel and the European Union. What do you want?

[Peres] Israel has 1 percent of trade with Europe, with a deficit of over $7.5 billion. We think we have the right to special treatment, if only as customers. There are customs tariffs that militate against us in the agricultural sector. Israel, moreover, has opened its markets to goods from Gaza and the West Bank, and we feel that we are entitled to some sort of compensation. We are aiming to obtain EFTA [European Free Trade Association] country status, seeing that the EFTA countries are becoming fully paid-up members.

[Salerno] Mrs. Peres is not accompanying you to Italy, though she will go to Oslo with you. Little is know about her. What sort of woman is the wife of the winner of the Nobel peace prize?

[Peres] We have always kept a clear division between public and private life, and we make no statements about our private lives. Not that is not happy, you understand, far from it. [Peres ends]

The minister rises and picks up a sheaf of proofs. It is his new book, and it will be in the shops, in Hebrew, in time for the ceremony is Oslo. "The first episode is the story of how I fell in love with my wife. But I have promised to make no advance revelations. You will have to wait."

Labor's Zwili Forecasts 'Informal' Talks With Hamas

BR2511135994 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 25 Nov 94 p 10

[Interview with Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zwili by Umberto de Giovannangeli in Jerusalem; date not given: "If Hamas Votes, Dialogue With Israel Is Possible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The strength of Hamas is nourished by the desperation of thousands of Palestinians who are still forced to live in conditions of squalor. The best way to help 'Arafat is to give him the resources that he needs to demonstrate that peace is not a mere word," maintains Nisim Zwili, secretary general of the Israeli Labor Party and, along with Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, member of the three-man team that heads Israel's largest party. "If Hamas takes part in the elections and its representatives are elected, Israel will talk to them."

[De Giovannangeli] There is open warfare between the Palestinian authority and "Hamas" in Gaza. Israel seems to be looking on from the sidelines, as if this clash were nothing to do with it. Am I right?

[Zwili] We are not surprised at what is happening. After the signing of the Oslo agreements, we were aware that the fundamentalists would leave no stone unturned in their efforts to destroy the understanding reached between Israel and the PLO. Yasir 'Arafat stood guarantee for the talks, and that is why Hamas is gunning for him. No, Israel cannot stand and look on: It is in our interest to give 'Arafat the means that will enable him to launch the development programs without which he cannot consolidate his leadership. For the sake of peace and our security, it is to be hoped that 'Arafat and Hamas will reach a political agreement. This is the direction in which we ought to be moving, as to some extent we are already doing, reopening our frontiers to the Palestinian workers from Gaza and the West Bank, and exerting pressure on our Western allies to deliver the aid that they promised 'Arafat a while back but which is taking a long time to materialize.

[De Giovannangeli] A few days ago, 'Arafat announced elections in the territories, and Rabin, after much resistance, gave them the green light yesterday. What hurdles still need to be cleared?

[Zwili] If 'Arafat had managed to stabilize the situation in the autonomous territories, we would have had no problem in respecting the agreed troop withdrawal schedule. Sadly, that is not the case. The next stage in the agreements envisages a change of strategic proportions in the deployment of our army. I appreciate 'Arafat's eagerness to rid the West Bank entirely of the Israeli military presence, but 'Arafat, too, must realize that, from our point of view, there are still impediments to a total withdrawal. The Oslo agreements make precise reference to the security of the 130,000 and more Israelis living in the West Bank settlements; we have to make every effort to encourage elections in the territories, and in the short term, but in the full knowledge of the fact that, were we now to withdraw completely, in other words not merely from the centers inhabited by the Arabs, and if a Jewish settlement were attacked the following day, the Oslo agreements would no longer be worth the paper on which they are written, and the whole Middle East peace process would be thrown into crisis.

[De Giovannangeli] One of the thorniest problems still to be settled in the negotiations between Israel and the PLO is precisely that of the Jewish settlements. Do you not believe that keeping them is in itself a matter that will make for continuing tension?

[Zwili] My answer is yes, it is, particularly in the case of settlements such as Netzarim, which is built in an area inhabited solely by Arabs. There are no valid economic reasons justifying the continuing presence of Netzarim in the heart of the Gaza Strip. But this has nothing to do with the Hamas campaign, the declared purpose of which is to rid Palestine entirely of all Israeli presence; if Netzarim were no longer there, the terrorists would attack 'Afula, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv. In any case, the issue of the settlements is governed by the agreements on autonomy, which lay down principles and set out the various stages in the negotiations. I know perfectly well that standing by their undertakings creates problems for both Israel and the Palestinians, but the peace process is founded on compliance with the decisions made together; this is the essence of dialogue.

[De Giovannangeli] There are people in Israel, and in the ranks of the government as well, who consider that it would be wise to open some sort of negotiations with Hamas. What are your feelings on this?

[Zwili] Openly establishing official contacts with Hamas would bring the political career of Yasir 'Arafat to an end. But this does not mean that we cannot seek informal ways of talking to the political leaders of Hamas...

[De Giovannangeli] To what end?

[Zwili] Seeking to persuade them to take part in the elections announced by 'Arafat. If Hamas representatives were elected, I believe that Israel ought to talk with them, but never as an alternative to 'Arafat.

'Hundreds' of Islamic 'Extremists' Detained

TA2811120894 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Alex Fishman and Barukh Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the bus attack in Tel Aviv the security forces have detained hundreds of activists from Islamic extremist organizations on the West Bank.

According to a defense source, over 300 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists were arrested in recent weeks. Palestinian sources believe over 400 people were detained, including some previously deported to Lebanon. Most of the detainees were interrogated and released, some remain in detention, and others were put under administrative detention.

Despite the hard-line policy announced by the prime minister following the attack, the State Prosecutor's Office is not keen to accept the demand of the security forces to approve administrative detentions for periods of more than three months. A senior Justice Ministry source said that the decision on the issue was made by Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir.

Minister on Economic Reconversion Program

BR2811141594 Brussels LE SOIR in French 26 Nov 94 p 2

[Interview with Shim'on Shetrit, Palestinian Authority economics and planning minister, by Agnes Gorissen; place and date not given: "Shim'on Shetrit on Israel, its Economic Partners, and the Palestinians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gorissen] Since September 1993 the European Commission has been talking about deepening its relations with Israel, which means reviewing the 1975 cooperation agreement. So far, however, no document has been signed. This would seem to be the result of certain differences of opinion.

[Shetrit] We made significant improvement in the area of research and development. The remaining objections regarding our participation in the Community program in this domain have recently been smoothed out and we have now begun detailed negotiations. With this development our position will be quite similar to Switzerland's.

With regard to the review of the 1975 agreement, negotiations were held on Wednesday [23 November] and Thursday on three subjects: agriculture, the participation of Israeli businesses in public telecommunications contracts, and rules of origin. If we manage to make progress on these three points we may be able to overcome certain trade deficits—currently of the order of $5 billion.

[Gorissen] In addition to its relations with Europe, Israel is also a party to other long-term economic projects. You were in Casablanca for the meeting on the future of the Middle East and Maghreb, and there is also the idea of a common market in the Middle East. Do you have a more specific idea of what you are heading toward?

[Shetrit] We have a general vision: We can anticipate an increase in the share of the Maghreb and Middle East in world trade, from 2 percent today to 10 percent in 25 years. This is very promising for the region and it should convince multinationals to invest.

To achieve this we need to begin with common projects in five sectors where the risks are limited: tourism, infrastructure, energy, water, and the agro-industry. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in these sectors will produce a concrete change in the Maghreb and Middle East, with the possibility of economies of scale. However, this is a triangular model, with Arab, Israeli, and other partners—the Japanese, Americans, and Europeans. This respects the sensibilities of each of the Middle Eastern partners and contributes the advantages of the other partners.

[Gorissen] All of these projects involve the transformation of economies, which must be geared toward peace, not war.

[Shetrit] That is not so difficult. We have been in a transition period for a while now. For example, in Israel defense spending was more than 70 percent of gross domestic product in 1975, whereas today it is 7.8 percent. The real change is psychological, with the removal of barriers, the abolition of the Arab boycott, and the creation of a new atmosphere among the leaders of the various countries.

[Gorissen] Military spending has certainly dropped, but in the draft budget for 1995 the share for defense nevertheless increased by $600 million.

[Shetrit] You have to remember that peace is expensive. We have to build fences around the Gaza strip, move Army bases, and set up new telephone lines for these bases. That is expensive, much more expensive than the extra amount for the defense budget. We prefer to spend this $600 million, rather than $6 billion for war.

[Gorissen] In view of recent events in Gaza and in the face of the risk of an inter-Palestinian war, what does Israel intend to do economically to encourage stability in this autonomous zone?

[Shetrit] We signed an economic agreement with the Palestinian Authority which included a customs union and the transfer of Palestinian agricultural products into Israel. This implies compensation for Israeli producers, who are more expensive, so that they can convert. We are helping to organize the aid from donors. We cannot do any more. It is up to the Palestinians to ensure their own stability. Economically speaking there is a problem of transparency on the part of the Palestinian organization, which receives money from the international community. There is no guarantee that the money will not be misappropriated. The fact that the Palestinians do not yet have a true administration is not Israel's affair.

The same is true politically. Here, 'Arafat made a mistake by not disarming those people who had arms, an action which was stipulated in the Cairo agreements. He did not do it for months, thinking that these arms would be used against Israel. But they were used against him.

He has carried on this way by concluding an agreement with Hamas, without disarming that movement. The Palestinians must take charge of things and become professional. 'Arafat has to stop complaining and become a leader who takes action.

[Gorissen] But peace is everyone's business. It is also important for Israel. The extension of certain Jewish colonies in the West Bank may not be a very strong decision.

[Shetrit] There has not been any major change in our policy. Nobody should expect us to freeze the settlements along the River Jordan, which must expand for their subsistence needs.

[Gorissen] Israel also controls some 20 percent of the Gaza territory, the autonomy zone.

[Shetrit] The agreement with the Palestinians authorizes us to maintain these settlements.

[Gorissen] But why let new colonists settle there?

[Shetrit] If we have to continually change the agreements because the Palestinians are psychologically sensitive then I can give you 10 reasons for the Israelis to do the same thing. If 'Arafat had complied with the agreements from the beginning we would not be at this point now.

Sarid on Relocating Settlements in 'Next Stage'

TA2911122794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid believes that Israel should start perusing the maps prior to the next stage of the negotiations and plan not only the redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] but also the relocation of the Jewish settlements.

Our correspondent Gil Litman says that Minister Sarid was speaking during a tour of the 'Etzyon Bloc. As for the permanent arrangement, Sarid estimated that there would be no choice but to uproot a large number of settlements. Other settlements could remain in place, but under foreign sovereignty, while the remainder would stay under Israeli sovereignty in the framework of two contiguous settlement blocs.

Cuba Said Interested in Normalization of Ties

TA2911134994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has expressed his support for the peace process in the Middle East and encouraged Yasir 'Arafat to fulfill the agreement with Israel. Castro spoke in Havana with Latif Dori, a member of the MAPAM [United Workers Party] secretariat, who participated in the MAPAM and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] delegation to the international conference against the U.S. boycott of Cuba.

Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Dori said that Cuban officials have expressed a willingness for the speedy normalization of Cuba's ties with Israel and have not even made this conditional on the removal of the Israeli Government's support for the U.S. embargo.

Hasan Welcomes EU Proposal for Mediterranean Forum

MM2811142894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by Nur-al-Din al-Furaydi: "Prince Hasan Tells AL-HAYAH: Conference on Security and Cooperation Requires Participation of All"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels—The European Union [EU] has stressed its support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord and the need to embody its benefits at the political and economic levels.

For his part, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, during his talks in Brussels, welcomed the EU's proposal to convene a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean. In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that this conference "requires the participation of all the states in the region. We believe that this participation would open the door to focus more on Syrian and Lebanese participation in the peace march. There is a big hope that the (proposed) conference would include the issues of security and stability in the Middle East, including the serious situation in the Balkans. The conference also represents a new mechanism for Arab-European dialogue." [passage omitted]

On the Middle East and the crisis in relations between the Palestinian National Authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Jordanian crown prince told AL-HAYAH that the main issue lies in "the keenness to make the self-rule negotiations a success" and to secure the economic aid. "Jordan has stressed to Israel and the international parties the need to support the Palestinian people." On Jordan's relations with Hamas, Prince Hasan said that the Jordanian-Israeli accord "does not affect political action. However, promoting violence is completely unacceptable." He added that "extremists in Israel have not been denied freedom of expression." He denounced tendentious campaigns "linking extremism with the true Islamic religion."

Prime Minister: Future Challenge 'Economic'

JN2311130294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has affirmed that Jordan's future challenge is an economic one. He noted that communications and the availability of information are the basic elements of this challenge in the post-peace era.

Speaking during a visit to the Communications College here in Amman this morning, the prime minister said there are no losers in peace and that everyone had to win. He said that Jordan's gains from peace are material following its restoration of its rights to land, water, and security. Israel's benefits of peace, the prime minister went on to say, are moral after it became a part of the region.

Army Intelligence Chief on Peace With Israel

TA2511131894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 25 Nov 94 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Major General Tahsin Shurdum, chief of Army Intelligence, by correspondent Smadar Peri in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Peri] Major General Shurdum, dozens of Israelis are already roaming the streets of Amman, while at the same time your peace opponents are staging demonstrations. It would seem to be only a question of time before a terror attack is perpetrated against Israelis.

[Shurdum] We are set and ready to foil any attempts, and, if something bad nevertheless happens, I hereby inform you that the matter will not be forgiven. We will severely punish anybody who tries to harm Israelis.

[Peri] The alarm has already been sounded: An Israeli tourist of American origin was stabbed on a busy street in Amman.

[Shurdum] This unfortunate episode occurred five weeks ago; an investigation is under way, and there are people who are studying the lessons. It definitely need not have happened. Nowhere in the Islamic religion is there a call for people to take to the streets, stab a tourist with a knife, or assault him with a weapon.

If somebody is seeking to take advantage of Islam to hurt people, that is unacceptable to us. Not only will we not allow terror, but we will also not tolerate verbal extremism, not in sermons in mosques, nor in the streets or in press articles.

[Peri] In your capacity as chief of intelligence, could you allay the fears of Israelis who are planning to inundate Jordan?

[Shurdum] I hereby announce: The Jordanian security authorities are doing their best to secure the safety of every visitor, and there is no difference between an Israeli, an American, or an Arab tourist. We have all the means to guarantee a free and safe stay.

[Peri] Last weekend the weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI disclosed that opponents of the peace agreement with Israel had held a secret meeting in Larnaca and that they are planning to attack Israelis in Jordan in order "to kill" the peace.

[Shurdum] I promise: We will not allow Israelis in Jordan to come to any harm, just as we will not allow Israelis to come to any harm from Jordanian territory. King Husayn even expressed this spirit in his latest address to Parliament, and we know how to translate this message into practice.

We will have to deal with this issue as part of the cooperation between Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian entity to prevent terror. We will have to work together to persuade certain people to get used to a reality of peace.

I believe that a dialogue must be conducted in order to get acquainted with the positions of the peace opponents and to learn to respect them, on condition that they not engage in terror. We call on the peace opponents to cooperate and to adapt to the new situation.

[Peri] And what about the avowed opponents of the peace?

[Shurdum] It is important to stress that we are talking about two groups of opponents: the extremists who claim to operate in the name of Islam, who I believe will continue to oppose the peace. The second group comprises people whom I would describe as "sitting on the fence." To the best of my knowledge, they oppose the peace, but, if it yields results, their opposition will weaken and ultimately disappear.

[Peri] How many peace opponents are there in Jordan?

[Shurdum] I have no exact figures. I can only say that the overwhelming majority of Jordan's citizens support the peace. When his majesty voices support for peace, the majority of our people immediately side with him. We are honest people who speak the truth and do not engage in double talk. The desire to attain peace has been with us for a long time, and it is genuine.

Jordan sought peace for many years, whereas our neighboring countries held different positions. After the collapse of the USSR the opportunity opened up for us to join the peace efforts. The Palestinians got their share in Oslo, and the time came to see to our own interests. We intend to do the impossible to make this peace successful.

[Peri] Although Jordan has been a good neighbor, King Husayn sat on the fence for many years.

[Shurdum] I have been a military man for 34 years, and I do not want to get into political analyses. Nevertheless, I would like to make clear that we follow his majesty and have total faith in him.

[Peri] What role did Jordan's military intelligence play in the king's decision to make peace?

[Shurdum] Every time the king makes a decision he consults his close advisers and the cabinet. He is open and attentive to other opinions and views, down to the last detail. However, when a political decision is involved, the Army does not intervene.

At the same time, his majesty updates us, briefs us, and tours Army units. That is how he obtains the support of the Army and the people for his decisions. [passage omitted]

[Peri] The peace with Syria seems to be stuck. Will this impasse adversely affect our peace?

[Shurdum] I believe the Syrians want peace; President al-Asad said as much, and so did the Syrian Government. And even if they are not prepared to go into detail right now, they ultimately will, just as we did. You want peace, too. Ultimately there must be peace, but it will take time.

[Peri] But President al-Asad's conditions for peace might bring about Prime Minister Rabin's downfall.

[Shurdum] I am not a politician. I believe that Israel must understand the demands of the Syrians, just as the Syrians must understand yours.

Syria is part of the region. In the wake of its participation in the peace conference in Madrid, there is no way back from the path of peace, and the dialogue continues. Some issues are being discussed now, and I do not know what they are, or I had better not talk about them.

[Peri] Is Jordan in the picture regarding the ongoing dialogue between Syria and Israel?

[Shurdum] I do not know. I would rather not comment.

[Peri] But you are optimistic.

[Shurdum] Definitely.

[Peri] As chief of Jordan's military intelligence, what is the problem that troubles you the most?

[Shurdum] I will tell you frankly: the economic development of our region. Everything that happens in this region is related to it. Economic development may solve almost all of our problems.

[Peri] Including Islamic fundamentalism?

[Shurdum] The moment a person is in a good economic position, has a job, and can support his family all other problems vanish. The economy is an important element, an incentive, a sedative.

[Peri] As part of the efforts to expand the peace, will you try to mediate between us and Iraq?

[Shurdum] I really do not know. That is a political question. You are probably aware of our sentiments toward the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people have suffered a lot, and we very much hope that the sanctions will be lifted at some point.

[Peri] To the best of your knowledge, are the Iraqis interested in peace with Israel?

[Shurdum] I am not really the right person to answer such questions, but I suppose that in the future, when the sanctions are lifted, they can definitely become partners in the peace process. They have said as much themselves. They are human beings like you and me. They would like to live in peace and to join the process, and they have a vast potential of abilities and resources. We definitely hope that the moment will come when Iraq is able to join the region once again. They have something to contribute. [passage omitted]

'Hundreds of Thousands' Said To Observe Strike

NC2911123894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A general strike was staged in Lebanon today in response to a call from the General Workers Federation. Observance of the strike varied from area to area. Private schools were closed but teaching staff in government schools showed up for work. Bank employees went to their banks, where they spent their time carrying out internal administrative work. The money market, the Central Bank, the shares market, and financial institutions were closed and the rates of exchange and gold price lists were not issued. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY's correspondent reported that Beirut Port is almost deserted. Cargo was not being loaded but ships were continuing to enter and leave the port. Normal activity continued in official departments, at petrol stations, pharmacies, bakeries, and restaurants. Shops complied with the Beirut Traders Association's directive to regard today as a normal working day and a high percentage of them opened their doors. [passage omitted]

[In a related report by Hala Boncompagni, Paris AFP in English at 1149 GMT on 29 November adds the following: "Hundreds of thousands of workers held a one-day strike on Tuesday to press for an 88 percent wage increase and warned of further protests two years after labour unrest brought down the government.

["The work stoppage called by the 300,000-strong General Workers Federation (GWF) was seen here as one of the most serious labour challenges to the government of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

["On May 6 1992, the government of 'Umar Karami, was forced to step down after a nationwide strike when it failed to meet workers' demands for salary increases and benefits.

["A GWF official, Halim Matar, told AFP '80 percent of all workers and employees, or about 400,000 people, are observing the work stoppage.' He said the association of shopkeepers' refusal to join the strike was 'an attempt by the state to divide ranks. But it is bound to fail.'

["The federation is demanding increased social benefits as well as an 88 percent wage increase. And the government—which has submitted to parliament a 3.2 billion dollar budget for 1995 with a projected deficit of 42.75 percent—was due to meet later Tuesday to discuss the demands.

["Sources quoted by the AL-NAHAR daily said the government could approve a 20 percent salary increase in the private sector and raise minimum wages from 200,000 Lebanese pounds (120 dollars) to 300,000 pounds (180 dollars).

["The GWF says an average family needs 870 dollars to survive each month. 'The strike is a test of the government's intentions' to cooperate with the GWF and it will set the scene for future relations between the two parties, AL-NAHAR said.

["GWF president Ilyas Abu-Rizq said there were wide gaps between the government and the workers. 'Deep valleys separate us,' he said, warning that 'any escalation will be decided after tonight's cabinet decisions.'

["'We are holding a peaceful strike in order to ensure our daily bread,' Abu-Rizq said, in a statement broadcast on private radios. A GWF statement said there were 'efforts by certain parties and elements to exploit the peaceful, democratic strike in order to undermine security.'

["Al-Hariri held talks late Monday with Interior Minister Michel al-Murr, Labour Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin and Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah on the situation and to discuss the workers' demands. After the meeting al-Murr warned that 'legal measures will be taken against all (government) employees who take part' in the strike, adding the government 'will not allow security to be undermined and does not allow demonstrations.'

["According to press reports here a cabinet commission recently put the cost of living index at 15-18 percent while reports in October said inflation was running at 12 percent.

["In October around 60,000 workers from the state-owned autonomous services went on a limited strike for better wages and social benefits."]

Islamic Army Wants 'Arafat Supporters Expelled

NC2611082894 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] One week after the massacre perpetrated by Yasir 'Arafat in front of Gaza's Filastin Mosque, his group has created a second bloodbath in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. His followers provoked a security eruption with the aim of eliminating his opponents. After the opponents' positions were stormed, clashes broke out, lasting from dawn until nightfall yesterday. 'Arafat's opponents regained all the positions they had initially lost. The fighting left 10 people dead and dozens wounded.

Sporadic gunfire could be heard throughout last night and a state of extreme tension prevailed in the camp this morning.

The command of the Revolutionary Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine [al-jaysh al-thawri al-islami li tahrir filastin] has issued a statement, condemning the incidents provoked by 'Arafat's supporters in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, declaring that this is a step designed to cover up, with bloody events, the schemes being planned by 'Arafat, his [Palestinian] Authority, and the Jews against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland.

The Revolutionary Islamic Army urged an immediate halt to the infighting because the nation which rejects humiliation and surrender and the achievements made by this nation will be the primary victim of this internecine conflict. It called for massive pressure by the Palestinian population to expel 'Arafat's supporters from all Palestinian camps immediately.

'Arafat Orders Investigation Into Camp Clashes

NC2611142794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTER cites Khalid al-Shayib, Fatah's official in charge in Lebanon, as saying that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered an investigation into the causes of yesterday's fighting in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, during which eight people were killed and 16 wounded.

The Palestinian official said that the committee started its work as soon as it was formed, and the first thing it did was to release 22 fighters who had been detained by the two sides. He said: We have taken back all the centers that were occupied by some individuals in the Fatah Movement because of personal reasons and greed without approval from the leadership.

REUTER adds that Lieutenant Colonel Kamal Midhat, the official in charge of Fatah's intelligence service in Lebanon, yesterday led an attack on centers under al-Shayib's control in what appeared to be a struggle between factions within the Fatah Movement.

Tension Returns to Palestinian Refugee Camp

NC2811065094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension returned to 'Ayn al-Hulwah [Palestinian refugee] camp last night after two days of calm. Armed men deployed around their centers after an investigation committee appointed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat failed to solve all the problems. The committee did succeed in releasing detainees held by both sides.

Major Khalid al-Shayib, deputy commander of the Fatah militias, announced his resignation and warned that the situation in the camp is volatile, since those who caused the fighting are still in the camp. He blamed the fighting on Lieutenant Colonel Kamal Midhat, the official in charge of Fatah intelligence.

The former leader of the Fatah militias, Lieutenant Colonel Munir Maqdah, warned 'Arafat loyalists in three centers to evacuate the centers and called on residents to stay away from them.

Birri Reiterates Stand on Peace, Attacks Israel

NC2711205694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Nov 94

[Speech by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri during a celebration honoring him in 'Abra on 27 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Your Beatitude the Patriarch, bishops, honorable people, all my kinfolk; while we are still experiencing the atmosphere of independence day, we can sense that Lebanon will not smile so long as parts of its territories are in pain due to the occupation. Successful independence can only be realized through unconditional Israeli withdrawal from our land in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425. [applause]

We reconfirm our refusal to give the Israeli occupier any consolation prizes in return for its withdrawal from our land at the expense of our regional sovereignty over our land and territory. If others have lost their cards, we are still holding all ours in our hands, the most important of which is our national unity. [applause] Any security or water arrangements will lead to an inferior independence. Security arrangements must be made on the other side of the border, the side from which aggression has always been launched. Lebanon has never in its history launched any aggression against others. While Lebanon demands an end to the occupation, it will not be a border guard for Israel. The Lebanese defense institution as well as the security institutions will perform their duties of defense and security to preserve national sovereignty and general order. In addition, as part of the settlement arrangements in the region, Lebanon will not accept, as the Palestinian refugees shouldn't accept, an alternative homeland. They should not agree to turn Lebanon into a human stepping stone for resolving their problems. They also should not accept having their Palestinian identity erased. The current Lebanese example which is being formulated now to return every citizen to his home and retrieve his properties for him—today's celebration marks the end of a very important chapter in this process—must constitute an international precedent in entrenching the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

In all cases, including the Lebanese track in the regional settlement or within the regional order cannot happen except through integration with the Syrian track because Syria, under the leadership of President al-Asad, [applause] has rectified the course between the two Octobers. Today it is rectifying the concept of peace based on the strategy of a just and comprehensive peace which itself is based on international resolutions. As Lebanon needs Syria, Syria needs Lebanon. This is because Syria is the key to peace and Lebanon is the base for resistance. Syria represents a Lebanese need to give Lebanon confidence in its regional surroundings after the Arabs have unfortunately responded to lifting the boycott of Israel but keeping it on Lebanon. They have suspended the establishment of the Arab and international fund for helping Lebanon. Syria also represents a need for Lebanon and both countries constitute the strategic and economic hinterland for each other. In any case, the current situation on the Palestinian and Israeli tracks confirms that unilateral courses for solutions have stepped up the tension and did not in the least [words indistinct]. We need to note here that Israel is trying to bide its time to avoid paying the price of peace with Syria. For your information, the negotiations are now frozen, despite all attempts to deny this. Israel is trying to bide its time before disbanding forces in the Palestinian arena by starting a civil war. The regrettable incidents in Gaza cast doubts over the success of any settlement on any track which does not fall within the general idea of the comprehensive and just solution leading to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and confirming the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Israel is creating events in the region so that it can propose alternatives which are an actual reproduction of the geography of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as they were before the June 1967 war. This will eliminate all possibilities for creating a Palestinian entity and will then force the Palestinian refugees, wherever they are, particularly in Lebanon, to be assimilated. This conspiracy—dear brothers I declare this from east of Sidon—is now in full swing. Canada is the country responsible for resettling the Palestinians and for this conspiracy against the Palestinian and Lebanese people. I say this from my position of responsibility. Yes, the Canadian Government is doing its utmost to resettle the Palestinians in Lebanon at the expense of Lebanon and Palestine. [passage omitted]

Israel Criticized for Portrayal of Islam

NC2711102594 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Nov 94

["A Pause With an Event" program: "Zionism Is a Danger to Humanity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 28 May 1992 the then Israeli President Hayim Herzog visited Poland and delivered a speech to the Polish parliament in which he said that Islamic fundamentalism and revived antisemitism were still a menace to the Jewish people, that this disease was spreading rapidly, and that it constituted a threat not merely to the Jews but to humanity at large. Herzog accused the Islamic Republic of Iran and those whom he described as its allies of inciting Islamic fundamentalism in the turbulent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union. He added that the danger was increasing because some fundamentalist elements were seeking control [words indistinct].

Prior to that, during the Gulf crisis and Desert Storm, a large number of Zionist officials and commentators urged the United States not to surrender to the idea that merely driving the Iraqis out of Kuwait would bring stability to the Middle East. They said that the United States must finish the job in Iraq and devote itself to disarming it and the rest of the region, notably Syria.

It was not long before U.S. accusations surfaced against Syria, because it possessed some military technology. In order to force it to abandon nuclear technology, Pakistan was threatened with being put on the list of countries supporting terrorism. Iran also received its fair share of accusations.

The Zionist entity's scheme was to surround the Islamic banner with exaggerated publicity and shoot arrows at it to protect its interests, which this entity said are threatened by Islamic fundamentalism, if not now then in the future.

After the collapse of Marxism, the fall of the Soviet Union, and the end of the Cold War, a political trend appeared in Europe and the United States advocating a search for a new enemy. Behind this trend stood huge vested interests, particularly those of the military industry. Political thinkers also theorized that, since the restraints had been removed, the West had to move quickly and seize the Third World's rich resources. Some even said that the new era required fresh mobilization and a new enemy, possibly Islam.

Numerous Israeli writings intended for U.S. readers said that the majority of Americans are not as alert as their media and do not consciously admit that Israel served as an anticommunist bulwark in the Middle East for many years and that during that time it saved many U.S. lives and hundreds of billions of dollars. The Israeli articles added that, after the communist threat was eliminated, it was replaced by the new threat of Islamic fundamentalism. They suggested that it might be provident for Israel to act as the West's frontline defense against the massive and growing Islamic tide. They declared that Islam was sweeping the Middle East, threatening the stability of some Arab governments like those of Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia and acquiring growing influence in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan, and further west in Algeria and Tunisia, even in occupied Palestine itself where the Islamists were carrying out impressive operations that shook the usurping entity to its foundations.

This is the Western view of Islam, which the Zionists claim is threatening the Christian West. This reasoning backs three quarters of the Muslim world and the entire Christian West into a corner from which they can be extricated only by the dwarfish progeny called Israel.

These analyses, which have been presented to Western and particularly U.S. readers, are meant to delude them into believing that what they read are facts and are meant to advocate keeping Israel on the U.S. payroll. The Zionists allege that they can hear voices, which Westerners cannot hear, calling for crushing first the Jews and then the Christians. The Zionists do not, however, identify the sources from which they obtain their information. The clear objective is to arouse the wrath of the Jewish and Christian public and make them extend aid and assistance to Israel—the savior that wants to continue placing itself at their service.

Based on this hypothesis, the Zionists conceived the claim that the territories they control in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and south Lebanon constitute the necessary minimum guarantee of the Zionist entity's security against any Arab or Islamic attack.

During U.S. President Bill Clinton's first few months in the White House, the enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke thus to the leaders of U.S. Jewish organizations: We are not yet sure that President Clinton and his team fully realize the danger of Islamic fundamentalism and Israel's decisive role in fending it off.

Rabin added that the Arab world and the rest of the world will pay a high price if the cancer of Iran's Islamic radicalism is not halted. Citing what he described as the charter of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Rabin said it called for slaughtering and torturing the Jews. He added that this charter says no Jew is innocent, that all Jews must be killed, and that Israel will continue to exist only until Islam destroys it.

To justify his entity's expulsion and killing of Muslim strugglers, Rabin announced that his resistance against those whom he describes as Muslim terrorists is also designed to awaken the world from its deep slumber and alert it to this real and serious threat to international peace.

Rabin added: We stand today in the trench against fundamentalist Islam. We urge all countries and nations to turn their attention to the massive threat of Islamic fundamentalism.

Zionist newspapers frequently point to the spread of mosques in European capitals as a clear indication of the growing Islamic threat. According to these Israeli analyses, Brussels for example now has more mosques than churches. They say that more Arabic than English newspapers are published in London, this being a sign in the Zionists' view that the Day of Judgment is approaching, unless the West moves against its potential invaders.

These issues are a summary of the Zionists' and Americans' ideas as they try to divide the world into two parts, one populated by democrats and another full of fundamentalists who must be exterminated to please the Zionist tyrants.

To put it simply, Islam is hostile to Zionism and Judaism, not for the sake of revenge, but for purely humanitarian reasons. This is because, since the creation, the Jews have been the most evil, brutal, cruel, and cowardly of God's creatures. You rarely find a good quality among them. They killed the prophets, reformers, and thinkers because their teachings contradicted their criminal interests and inhibited their actions. Hostility to Jews is not merely a Muslim attitude but is found in all heavenly religions and in numerous worldly philosophies. The very fact of being a human being prevents one from loving them. Consequently the Jews and their Zionist partners have a bleak future, whether the world stands for them or against them. The fate of the criminals is to perish. A cancerous germ might ravage the body but will eventually be excised before it kills the body. This is God's promise. God keeps his promises.

Envoy Denies Kidnapped Iranian Diplomats Dead

LD2611214494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Beirut has denied the death of four Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in 1982 by the Falange forces in Lebanon.

The statement comes following yesterday's meeting of the Iranian authority Mr. Homayun Alizadeh with the Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Meanwhile the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Beirut last night through an issued statement emphasized the mentioned news. The published news in the Iranian KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL newspaper, however, confirms the words of the Iranian mission in Lebanon and the denial of the four Iranian officials being martyred on the basis of the newly obtained evidences.

Minister Defends Syrian Officer Against Allegations

NC2811131094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has expressed astonishment at the implication of Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of security and intelligence with the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon, in the case raised by Deputy Yahya Shamas during the Chamber of Deputies session at which his parliamentary immunity was lifted. Minister Dallul said Brig. Gen. Kan'an is above such a level and in all his conduct places Lebanon's interests above every consideration. The minister said Deputy Shamas made general accusations in every direction without basing this on any evidence or even on initial information, seeking help from ghosts to support his claims.

Clan Disavows Shamas' Accusations

NC2611092894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Biqa's Chief Investigating Judge 'Asim Safiy-al-Din issued a warrant for the formal arrest of deputy Yahya Shamas after interrogating him in Zahlah yesterday in the presence of his defense lawyer Salim 'Uthman. According to judicial sources, Shamas was then transferred to the Rumiyah prison. 'Uthman said he is not concerned about the case and that he trusts the investigating judge. He said he will submit a request for the release of his client next Tuesday on bail. Judicial sources have reported that Shamas has denied the charges against him.

Meanwhile, the Shamas clan issued a statement refuting all the accusations and other statements made by Mr. Yahya Shamas which sought to implicate official Lebanese personalities without any evidence. The clan also rejected the method that Shamas used, including his comments on a prominent Syrian figure known for his love of Lebanon.

Sulayman Malik Shamas issued a statement disavowing Yahya Shamas' remarks about Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of intelligence with the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon. He praised Kan'an's efforts in concluding reconciliation between the clan and the Bsharri population.

President's Son Sues Deputy for False Accusations

NC2811185094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Deputy Roy al-Hirawi [son of President Ilyas al-Hirawi] has sued Deputy Yahya Shamas for accusing him of totally baseless charges that have nothing to do with the truth. The case was registered at the Zahlah General Prosecution Office according to standard legal procedures.

Al-Shar' Welcomes EU Decision on Arms Embargo

JN2911064694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has welcomed the decision made yesterday by the European Union [EU] to lift the arms embargo on Syria.

In a press statement last night, al-Shar' said this decision is a response to Israel's attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Al-Shar' added: This decision is an important step toward the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He also reiterated the need for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, saying: Israel should withdraw fully from the Golan so that peace will be established in the region.

In another development, the EU and Syria have decided to promote economic, technical, and trade cooperation. This was decided at a meeting held by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with the EU foreign ministers yesterday.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting, the foreign minister said: This decision bodes well for promoting relations between us. This initiative shows the importance the EU attaches to promoting its relations with Syria. This also shows the importance of Syria's role in the Middle East peace process.

A statement issued following the meeting noted that the EU and Syria hope that substantial progress will be made in the peace process.

The foreign minister also told reporters that Israel must withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan in order to achieve peace.

Regarding financial cooperation between the two sides, the statement noted that the two sides are satisfied with the implementation of the first three agreements [not further specified] in full over the past stages, noting that the fourth agreement, which covers the period from 1992-1996 provides for credit worth 180 million European Currency Units [ECU] in the form of grants, in addition to 115 ECU in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the Brussels meeting is a first step that could lead to a good partnership in the future. He noted that the summit of the EU heads of government, which will be held between 9-10 January in Germany, will endorse a more active EU role in the Mediterranean.

Israel Seen 'Sabotaging' Relations With EU

NC2811175494 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Nov 28 (AFP)—Syria on Monday [28 November] accused Israel of "sabotaging" its relations with the European Union ahead of a meeting of EU foreign ministers which would discuss lifting an arms sales embargo on Damascus.

"Syria has always called for an effective European role in the Middle East peace process, while Israel has opposed it by sidelining Europe," said the government daily TISHRIN.

"The Zionist lobby has launched an unfair campaign against Syria aimed at sabotaging relations with Europe which have been characterised by fruitful and honest cooperation for a long time," the paper said.

On Friday a senior British official said the EU would tell Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Monday in Brussels that it was ready to lift its embargo on arms sales to Damascus.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres Monday criticized the proposal after talks with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, saying the Syrians did not need to buy weapons if they wanted peace.

"Let them move (toward peace) and then maybe there won't be any need for an arms embargo," he said.

Peace talks between Syria and Israel are stalled over the scale and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state captured in 1967.

Commentary Says Israel Should Pay Price of Peace

JN2711163294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has openly said Israel cannot pay the required price for the success of the march to a just and comprehensive peace. Of course, he means full withdrawal, and the rejection of submitting to the resolutions of international legitimacy that call for this withdrawal.

The question is: What does Israel negotiate for? Is it negotiating to normalize relations with the Arabs, and to impose an economic and political hegemony on them? Is it negotiating with Arabs in order to acquire writs of forgiveness and to see the Arabs declare their acceptance of the Israeli occupation of part of or all their territories?

Or is it negotiating in order to exercise arrogance and to brag about its power in dealing with the Arabs as defeated parties in the peace battle? The fact that Israeli officials are trying to ignore is that the Arabs, particularly Syria, did not join the peace process because they were forced, or because they are weak, or because they have given in to circumstances, but, as Syria has clearly announced, because peace has always been, is still, and will continue to be a strategic option. The whole world and the owners of the initiative realize, thanks to facts, lengthy talks, rounds of negotiations, exchanges of opinions, consultations, and several meetings, that Syria's peaceful approaches are sincere, and that it adheres to action to achieve peace on the bases of the U.S. initiative itself, represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

Based on this criterion, Israel's failure to pay the price of peace is an open rejection of the resolutions of international legitimacy, an insistence on a policy of aggression and occupation, and a continuation of blocking the peace process. In fact, Israel is pushing this process toward the abyss after it felt that the separate agreements it signed with the Palestinian and Jordanian sides have achieved its interests, and that the two Israeli partners in the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah are the only ones who have paid the price. It is a dear and dangerous price related to relinquishment of land and rights, and submission to Israeli considerations that turn parties to separate settlements into helpless satellites within the network of an Israeli hegemony that is established under many headlines which begin with peace, but do not end with the establishment of a new Middle East.

Has full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon become a concession from Rabin's point of view? If he speaks about full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon as a dear price, then what is the price of peace which the Arabs give to Israel, providing that it will be a just and comprehensive peace, achieve the interests and rights of all sides, and be in harmony with international legitimacy? Rabin and members of his government are aware of the essence of the answers to these questions. Undoubtedly, they also know what they do and what they say. However, the question remains: Are these stands and statements the only thing Israel presents to move the peace process forward? Does Israel prove its good peaceful intentions through such stands and statements? If the disavowal of the policy of occupation and aggression and withdrawal from the territories has no big price, then what will Israel call the Arabs' relinquishment of their land and rights just for the sake of pleasing it?

How can Israel imagine that it can have peace without paying this price? These are the continuous Israeli fallacies to evade peace.

European Decision Welcomed; Israeli Stand Assailed

JN2911103994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: We have always called for an independent European role away from Zionist pressures and bargaining. The paper says that the Europeans have felt the dangers of being kept away from the Arab region, which satisfied the whims of those who do not want Europe to be realistic and a supporter of reality.

The paper adds: Now, after it was unanimously decided to terminate the arms embargo on Syria, we cannot but reiterate our frequently-expressed belief that Europe has a role it must play away from the whims and pressures of Zionist organizations and Israel. The paper says the region should be free of tension and crises that ignite wars. So, will Israel agree to prevent war by returning usurped rights to their owners? And, will Israel agree to forsake its armament plans and military programs that target the land and Arabs?

The paper says that Israel, which protested the European decision, has more weapons than any superpower, especially as regards mass destruction weapons. The paper asks: Has Israel joined those countries that reject the proliferation of nuclear arms? It adds: No Israeli official can defend peace while he is immersed in drafting schemes of war and aggression. The Israelis also cannot obscure the reality, which Europe has realized and on whose basis it took this preliminary step toward Syria.

The paper hopes that the time will come when the world would isolate Israel and admit the legitimacy of the Arabs' struggle to thwart the aggression waged against them.

AL-THAWRAH says Israel was responsible for ruining European-Syrian relations just as it was practically responsible for ruining Syrian-U.S. relations at various stages and even the severance of these relations on many occasions. Israel realizes that the improvement of Syria's relations with Europe and the United States will severely harm its deliberate deception and distortion of facts to which it resorts to isolate Syria on the one hand and win the friendship of the West and the United States and extort assistance from them on the other.

The paper says Syria's steady stand toward and efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the world's deep awareness of Syria's important and central role in all the region's affairs are the reasons for the improvement of ties. Syria pays special attention to these ties given the role Europe can and should play to realize peace and build a secure and stable future for the region.

The paper calls on Europe to use its influence to realize just and comprehensive peace according to the principles of international legitimacy. It says Europe and the world realize just how responsive Syria has been and will continue to be toward any sincere effort to realize the aspired peace in the region.

Radio: U.S. Must Make Statement on Talks 'Impasse'

JN2811154294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1242 GMT 28 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. Administration wants to resume its Middle East peace efforts. That is why it is sending its chief diplomat, Warren Christopher, to the Middle East next week to advance the peace process, especially the Syrian- Israeli track of negotiations. This new tour of the region is coming in the aftermath of the tour by President Bill Clinton, who said in Damascus that Syrian efforts to achieve peace are sincere. He underscored Syria's persistent efforts to achieve this objective. Christopher has said nothing about the nature of his new Middle East mission. He has not spoken about the ideas he will be bringing with him. In the same vein, no other U.S. official has commented on his new tour. Nonetheless, Israeli political sources have chosen to speak on behalf of Washington about this mission.

According to these Israeli sources, the U.S. secretary of state is not bringing anything new. He seeks only to preserve the momentum of the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. That is what these sources have said. If anything, these statements demonstrate that the Israelis do not want to see the United States play the role of an honest broker and full partner in the peace process. Consequently, they do not want to subscribe to the key element of the U.S. peace initiative, the principle of exchanging territory for peace.

At present, Israeli politicians are speaking of Secretary of State Christopher's tour as if it is tourisism aimed just at preserving the momentum of the peace process. Just a few days ago, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced the cancellation of Christopher's tour, saying it has been canceled due to the Syrian position. But this was immediately denied by the U.S. Administration.

These Israeli statements indicate that the current Israeli position is unbalanced. Moreover, they show that Israel is attempting to evade the requirements of peace on the Syrian track of negotiations, especially after the U.S. Administration has realized that Syria is honest in its efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace—one that is grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the principle of exchanging territory for peace.

Israel, whose self-conceit has been nurtured by striking deals tailored to suit its own purposes, believes Syria must walk in the footsteps of others, and abandon its sovereignty and legitimate rights before it is deemed a party that is desirous of peace. If it fails to do so, Syria is deemed a party that is obstructing the peace process.

As for the demands Israel wants Syria to meet, they are numerous. Israel seeks a warm peace that ends the state of war and builds bridges of economic, cultural, and political cooperation with Syria, without even declaring a willingness to pay the price of peace. Such a price might be deemed too exorbitant for Israel to pay, as Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has said.

Because Syria is well aware that this position cannot stand any coherent examination, not to mention its being totally unacceptable to Damascus, Israel is trying to hold Syria responsible for the stalemate in the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations.

Israel is forestalling Secretary of State Christopher's tour by statements aimed at rendering this tour void of any meaningful content in order to evade the requirements of the peace sought and championed by Syria.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration is well aware of the true state of affairs in the region. Likewise, it is well aware of the party that is working to achieve peace, and of the party that seeks to hold on to Arab territories under flimsy excuses and pretexts.

The assumption that Washington might have reached such convictions is insufficient. Washington must play an effective role as an honest broker and partner in the peace process. The performance of such a role requires it to make a public statement, explaining the reasons for the impasse plaguing the peace process and identifying the party that is placing obstacles and barriers in the way of this process. Consequently, Washington must seek to remove these obstacles and barriers in order to allow peace efforts to achieve their objective, the attainment of a just peace that will benefit all parties. Such an endeavor on Washington's part could save the peace process from collapse.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Vows To Remain in Power

BK2811155194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman has said that the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, was voted into power by the people and would remain in power in accordance with the people's verdict.

She was addressing a mammoth student rally at Shapla Square in the Motijheel area of Dhaka this afternoon. The rally was organized by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student front of the BNP, with a view to building up stiff resistance against the conspirators who are out to foil our hard-earned democracy.

Criticizing the opposition parties for threatening to paralyze everything by resorting to an antigovernment movement on the streets, Begum Ziaur Rahman said that the BNP government elected by the people cannot give up power because of threats from any quarter. She said all the threats of launching a movement on the streets, resigning from the National Parliament, or observing strikes and blockade programs in order to spark violence and paralyze everything will not yield any result.

Opposition Strike Disrupts Major Cities

BK2911065794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0645 GMT 29 Nov 94

[Report by Golam Tahaboor]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP)—An opposition-led railway and road blockade aimed at wrestling political concessions from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia succeeded Tuesday [29 November] in disrupting train and bus services in the capital and other major cities.

An official at Dhaka's train coordination centre said activists had former human barricades on suburban tracks to halt or delay trains. He said some trains that left Dhaka early Tuesday for Chittagong and other destinations were stopped outside the capital or at other stations. Yet no violence has been reported at any of the trouble spots.

The blockade was heavily enforced in the port city of Chittagong and in the regional cities of Rajshahi and Khulna, reports said.

The day-long blockade was planned by the main opposition Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, and two other parties as part of a long-running campaign to force the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to accept demands for elections under a neutral caretaker government. The campaign, which will culminate in a general strike December 7-8, is being backed by the Jatiya Party of jailed former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad and the Jamaat-e-Islami group headed by fundamentalist leader Golam Azam.

The capital's three long-distance bus terminals were virtually deserted by passengers Tuesday, although bus services within Dhaka remained largely unaffected by the blockade.

The three parties coordinating the several-stage protest include some 150 legislators who have been boycotting the 330-seat parliament since March to press Zia into accepting the opposition demands. Zia's political opponents allege that fair elections under the present government would be impossible, and want to amend the constitution to provide for an interim government to oversee polls.

Zia, whose BNP was elected to a five-year term in Bangladesh's first free polls in 1991, following a prolonged pro-democracy campaign, on Monday renewed an appeal to opposition leaders to rejoin a dialogue aimed at ending the political standoff.

But at a downtown rally Monday, she warned the government would not respond to any unreasonable threats or demands.

Police and witnesses said small groups of opposition activists laid pickets in and around Dhaka's Gabtali, Saidabad and Mohakhali bus terminals on Tuesday. In Chittagong, protesters held a rally at the main railway terminal and blocked all train traffic. Chitttagong Mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed, a member of the Awami League, addressed the rally, witnesses said.

League leader Wajed, daughter of slain president Sheikh Mujibrgrahman and a rival of Zia's, in earlier protest rallies warned the government that failing to back the constitutional amendment would trigger crippling street protests.

Editorial Questions U.S. Stand on Human Rights

BK2911123094 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 18 Nov 94 p 5

[Editorial: "Human Rights and the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Human rights is not a new subject. It is a fundamental concern of society. Human civilization is meaningless in a society where the rights of the people are trampled. Such a society cannot contribute to the well-being of its people. This obstructs the normal growth of the people's activities and convictions. For this reason it is said that human rights violations are a great hurdle along the path a man takes in becoming a proper human being. Through the ages, different countries have understood the need to overcome this obstacle with a view to ensuring the fair, free, and independent development of their people. This realization has become more intense in this century, particularly since World War II. The United Nations formulated the UN Human Rights Charter with a view to protecting human rights, ensuring human welfare, and establishing world peace. Since then, the United Nations and the superpowers that mainly control it have continuously emphasized the need to protect human rights side by side with the establishment of world peace.

Has it been possible to protect human rights or to establish world peace by doing so? No, it has not been possible. The trend of human rights violations still persists. In some specific cases there has been a change in the strategy used to violate human rights. Incidents of human rights violations are taking place in new areas every day. In some cases, the human rights of whole nations or communities are being trampled. Independent ethnic groups are being destroyed through despicable and repressive measures such as killing, rape, and forcing people into exile. No effort has been made thus far at the international level to probe the causes of these incidents. Without going into a detailed discussion of the issue, it can be said that there have been different objectives behind all the statements issued and actions taken thus far by the United Nations and its chief controller, the United States, regarding human rights violations in the world. The United Nations and the United States have failed to set an example to help reduce human rights violations or protect these rights. On the contrary, it has been seen that in many countries and regions, such as Somalia, the United Nations and the United States have actually violated human rights under the pretext of protecting them. In Bosnia, where human rights are being violated and various ethnic groups are being destroyed by the barbarism unleashed upon them, the United States is paying only lip service and the UN forces are virtually assisting the aggressive Serb forces.

As a result, the situation has reached the point that if the United Nations or the United States raises the issue of human rights violations in any country or region, it should be understood that the United States has some ulterior motive. It can be seen that human rights violations and conspiracies to exterminate various ethnic groups are continuing in places where the primary superpower does not have any interests. U.S. trade interests are behind the recent warning given to Indonesia by the U.S. President. He asked Indonesia to improve its human rights record. Indonesian journalists have stated that the talks between the presidents of the United States and Indonesia mainly centered on the expansion of U.S. trade ties with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. This was reflected in the statement made by the U.S. secretary of state. A report quoting the U.S. secretary of state says that President Clinton and President Suharto signed a $40 billion agreement on the expansion of trade ties between the two countries in 17 sectors. Since the fall of socialism and the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has been observed that the human rights situation in the world is growing more dismal because of the link between U.S. economic interests and allegations of human rights violations. If the United States actually wants to contribute to the preservation of human rights in the world, it should abandon its present habits.

India

Secretary-Level Talks With Pakistan Proposed

BK2511005494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has suggested to Pakistan to hold foreign secretary-level talks on the Kashmir issue on the occasion of the Commonwealth official conference now on in Islamabad. New Delhi has reiterated its willingness for the dialogue under the Simla agreement. The talks can take place in the Pakistani capital as the foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, is already there for the Commonwealth meeting.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said this in New Delhi while responding to media reports on the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] statement on Kashmir. Expressing regret over the statement, the spokesman said the ICO continues to articulate partisan and prejudicial views on the situation in Kashmir. There has been no escalation in tension in Kashmir except for the foreign-inspired terrorism. He said the ICO statement on the 14th of this month also ignores the sincere efforts made by India to revive the political process in Jammu and Kashmir and to have a meaningful dialogue with the ICO secretariat.

Meanwhile, in Islamabad, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman ruled out the possibility of any talks between foreign secretaries of the two countries during the ongoing Commonwealth conference.

Sources of Conflict With Pakistan Viewed

BK2811121294 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 25 Nov 94 p 6

[Article by S.R. Saundaryanioni: "The Other Facet of the Indo-Pak Relationship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the context of Indo-Pak relations, almost five decades of experience points to the conclusion that the rulers of both countries have shown no sincere interest in improving their mutual relationship. On the contrary, maintaining tension and a constant state of preparedness has become part of their vested interests. For this reason, tensions between India and Pakistan are continuing to reach new heights while old enmities from Europe to Africa and from the West to East Asia have either ended or are progressing toward eventual resolution. Both countries are vying with each other to amass deadly weapons and a war frenzy is very much in evidence on both sides of the border.

Why is this happening and whose interests does it serve? Aside from Kashmir, what are the points of discord between India and Pakistan? If Kashmir is the root of all this tension, why are serious attempts not made to solve this problem once for all? Obviously no such attempt has ever been made, nor is there any possibility of earnestly tackling this problem in the near future.

One thing is very clear—this enmity is not in the interests of the people of either country. On the contrary, they pay a heavy price for it. While Pakistan spends 25 percent of its total budget on defense, India spends 13 percent. A look at the revised figures for both countries' defense expenditures for 1993-94 shows that India spent 210 billion rupees and Pakistan 89.100 billion rupees. Just to maintain their hold on the uninhabited Siachen region, both countries are spending millions of rupees every day and are sacrificing the precious lives of their soldiers.

Since a warlike atmosphere is constantly maintained in both countries, this massive loss of life and property is very seldom questioned. If anyone dares raise such a question, it is branded as contrary to national interests or antinational. The situation has reached the point that the measure of nationalism and patriotism has become the level of hatred toward the other country. One of the elements of nationalism is always mutual interest, but in the context of India and Pakistan it has been reduced to mere hostility. Nationalism in one country has come to be equated with hatred toward the other.

Is there anything in common between the two countries that could serve their mutual interests? Looking at the internal situation in both countries, it becomes apparent that there is nothing. The common masses in both countries are too busy tackling their everyday problems, which are progressively worsening, and creating an atmosphere of confrontation and struggle based on growing dissatisfaction. The administrative machinery is plagued with inefficiency, bureaucracy, and corruption at every level. The suspension of the process of democratizing institutions is causing the modern system of governance to lose its legitimacy. When the administration fails to represent the will of the people and busies itself serving its selfish and self-created elitist interests, it cannot claim to represent the people's mandate or serve the common interests of the entire population.

There is no economic reason for the ever-growing tension between India and Pakistan. Most of the wars and hatred in the modern world have been caused by a confrontation between economic interests or attempts to control markets. There is no economic competition, however, between India and Pakistan to cause tension or eventually lead to war between them. It appears that the rulers of both countries have surrendered to those countries that are damaging the economic interests of both peoples. The ruling groups in both countries seem to lack the will or even the intelligence to bring economic benefits to their people or develop their country on the basis of national pride. Rather, they are sowing the seeds of hatred, nurtured by their narrow-minded outlook, thus strengthening the grip of nationalism. Their reasons and intentions for doing so should be examined.

It is not very difficult to ascertain their motives. If we analyze the level of development achieved by both countries over the last four and three-quarters decades, we can see unambiguously that the dreams that were held at the time of the British departure have not been realized. Although India has formally remained a democracy, in reality it has failed to move toward the goal of democracy. Regressive trends have surfaced with impunity. The majority of Indians still lack the basic amenities. On the other hand, a small section of the population has managed to tap most of the resources of the country in grossly unfair proportion and is now enjoying the luxuries of an epicurean and consumer society. It is this section that is earnestly trying to globalize.

To see how our system is faring vis-a-vis the vaunted constitutional ideals and the principles of justice laid down by our nation builders, it would be sufficient to cast a cursory glance at the downtrodden classes and the tribal people. In 1986 a law was enacted against the oppression of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to provide these hapless people with extra legal security. Despite this act, these people continue to be robbed, raped, and murdered. The Ministry of Social Welfare informed the Lok Sabha in 1993 that no enquiry conducted into the iniquities inflicted on these scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been be completed since 1986. Although the tribal people have some inherent protection under the Constitution, their actual condition is appalling. The big landlords, business tycoons, and even government agencies have usurped their land on a massive scale. Their forests and mineral resources have been forcibly snatched away. They have not received their fair share of employment. The movements launched by these tribals for autonomy and social rights have been ruthlessly suppressed.

On the other side of the border, Pakistan also has a so-called democracy. Although Pakistan raises a fuss at every international forum to advocate the right of the Kashmiris to self-determination, its own government is always ready to suppress the movements launched by ethnic groups or minority peoples without mercy. The Pakistani Army has set many "records" for human rights violations in suppressing the Sindhi nationalist movement, yet the strife and bloody confrontation between the Sindhis and Muhajirs continues unabetted. About 2 million Pakhtoons living in the North-West Frontier Province (?should have been) allowed to participate in the elections for the National Assembly. The people of Gilgit, [word indistinct], and the northern region of Baltistan have been deprived of self-government and placed under the direct rule of Islamabad. These people have no representation in the national government.

There has also been a unique situation in these two countries over the last 10-15 years that whenever fundamentalist forces among the majority population have targeted the minority population and fanned a murderous frenzy, rather than confronting these forces the governments have entered into a sinister alliance with them. The destruction of the Babri Mosque is a glaring example on our side while the official consent for the torture of the Ahmedia community is an example from across the border.

The underlying meaning of these incidents is that in both countries the process of progressive democratization has stopped and maintaining the status quo has become the vested interest of the ruling and elitist groups. Efforts are being made to divert people's attention from this bitter reality; it is for this reason that the specter of a dreadful enemy is kept before the public—to incite them into a war frenzy to fight it. Actually, the real targets of this massive conspiracy in both countries are society's weak and have-nots and their meager rights. In a nutshell, it can be said that democracy is the ultimate casualty of this extreme nationalism being spread by the ruling clique in both countries. This sort of nationalism is proving more damaging to the people within the country and much less so to other countries.

Therefore, peace movements are very essential in these two countries today. They must arise with sufficient firmness to force both governments to stop inciting their people into a war frenzy and force them to endeavor earnestly to find a solution to the pending problems and initiate a new and healthy international relationship in the South Asian region. The obvious question is: Who should start this peaceful agitation and what should their agenda be?

This agitation should be started by people and organizations that truly represent the people and care for their tangible interests. They have influence among a large section of the population. If they resolve to join the agitation with conviction, they could really turn the tables. Various public bodies, trade unions, farmers groups, women's organizations, and human rights activists must join in a forum to enlighten the masses. They must impress upon the people that if this violent nationalism is not nipped in the bud, it could lead to war. This would likely prove quite devastating, not only to life and property but to democracy and people's freedoms. All that has been done so far in this regard would be thrown in the dustbin of history and the very basis of human relationships would be ruined beyond repair.

It is highly imperative that such organizations spring up in both countries and start interacting with each other. In developing their relations, though, these organizations would have to confront the issues that have been the cause of severe heartburn on both sides of the border. No lasting and real relationship could be developed while overlooking these bones of contention. What should the criterion be for solving these problems? The principle of democracy, obviously. The modern world can offer no option better than democracy. If democracy is embraced by all as the ultimate ideal and if democratic principles are adhered to in practice, lasting solutions can be found to all problems, including the very delicate Kashmir issue.

In the context of Kashmir, our criterion should be the people's will. Neither India nor Pakistan can impose a solution upon the Kashmiri people. Apart from these endeavors, our peaceful agitation must firmly oppose the war frenzy mindset, increasing defense budgets, the nuclear arms race, and inciting the religious sentiments of the gullible masses. Religious fanaticism has special relevance in the context of the Indo-Pak relationship; it seriously deepens mistrust and hatred between the people of these countries. If India and Pakistan can inspire such peaceful agitation to rouse the people to action, it will surely have a conducive effect throughout the South Asian region. Not only will peace and democracy get a shot in the arm, but the dream of creating a world order totally founded on justice and fair play will also be realized, adding a new dimension to the prosperity of the region.

Commentary Lauds Development of Super Computer

BK2711130594 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 94

[Commentary by Kiran Pandit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Six years after the U.S. administration prevented the sale of a second American super computer to this country, India introduced its own super computer Param-9000 to U.S. market in Washington at the Super Computing 94 fair about a couple of weeks earlier. Param-9000, an open system super computer has been developed indigenously by the Center for Development of Advanced Computing, CDAC, based in Bangalore. Ironically, the Param-9000 was developed by CDAC with the $10 million that had been originally earmarked by India to purchase an advanced Cray super computer manufactured by Cray Research of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

When hawks in Pentagon, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency tried to put several obstacles and conditions that India would not divert the super computer for military applications [and] not to third countries, India decided not to buy the Cray super computer. Instead, it decided to launch an ambitious program of its own to develop a super computer.

On 15 November, India had the distinct honor of being the only developing nation to have built an indigenous super computer when its Param-9000 was unveiled at the all-important show of super computers in Washington—Super Computing 94. It is the world's largest conference and exhibition on super computing. It has over 6,000 participants from all over the world. India is the only country outside the U.S., Europe and Japan running the race in super computing. Members of U.S.

Congress and White House staff have shown keen interest in Indian super computer Param-9000.

The Param-9000 joins the CDAC's celebrated Param family, which includes the Param-Campus, Param-8000, and the Param-8600 and breaks new grounds in open system super computer. Users no longer need to use specific processes, proprietaries, operating systems or inflexible architecture. It is an open frame for flexible super computing which encompasses the range from work stations to parallel computers. As Dr. Vijay P. Batkar, executive director of CDAC, has rightly said: Developing a super computer was the top priority for India because it is a strategic tool for tomorrow's economic development. It has been our dream to be both competent and competitive in manufacturing the super computer.

The evolution of computing had clearly favored the open system architecture and with their celebrated advantages open systems have become the platform of choice in the 1990's. While rising wave of open system has smashed the bastion of the mainframe, it is yet to penetrate the stronghold of super computers. Super computing still remains a closely-guarded technology of a few players with proprietary architecture. Open-frame architecture developed by CDAC for the first time opens the secrets of the super computing technology and brings the celebrated flexibility of open system to super computers benefiting end users [and] system integrators.

Param-9000 (?is sold) for between $80,000 and $4 million and is half the price tag for similar products developed in the West. It is versatile to the extent that its range of applications could include the development of drugs, exploration of oil, aircraft design, weather prognostication, and even tracking the depletion of the ozone layer.

The super computer Param-9000 was also envisaged to be used shortly for stock market analysis and even for video on demanding the entertainment sector. [sentence as heard] With the competitive price tag attached to it, it could be a bestseller in the computer market because of its flexible design. Moreover, unlike other models, the open frame architecture of Param-9000 can be custom-designed to suit whatever options the end user may require. With this architecture, users can integrate systems and configurate what they want.

CDAC, which has already sold 30 super computers of the earlier Param models, had also lined with strategic alliances for application software with several partners from Canada and Britain for remote sensing and fluid dynamics respectively. Among the buyers of the earlier Param models, have included Canada, Germany, and Russia. With Param-9000, CDAC now hopes to compete for a bigger chunk of the world super computing pie.

Iran

Yazdi on Contradiction Between Rights, Religion

LD2711115494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] *In a meeting in Tehran with Mr. (?Vasilu Giuna), the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Romania, Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, referred to the contradiction existing in the international declaration of human rights.* He said: On the one hand, this declaration states that individuals are free to choose their religion, but elsewhere it states that following religious commands is contrary to the declaration. This duality and contradiction must be examined, as a serious problem, by the legal experts of all religions and nationalities.

The head of the judiciary added: Individuals cannot be asked to follow a specific legal framework, regardless of religious considerations. Regarding our country's legal system, the head of the judiciary said: The Islamic Republic of Iran benefits from a comprehensive set of rights due to its reliance on the support of the people and on Islamic commands.

According to this report, the head of the Romanian Supreme Constitutional Court spoke about the beneficial results of exchanging views between the two countries in the legal and judicial areas, saying: In our view on legal issues, we attach special importance to the study of Islamic law, and we harbor no doubts or trepidations in this regard. [sentence as heard]

IPO Issues Statement Supporting Bosnian Muslims

LD2811142194 Tehran IRNA in English 1334 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—The Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) in a statement issued here Monday [28 November] declared Friday, December 2 as the day of support for defenseless Muslims of Bihac and protest against criminal Serbs.

Serb militarymen, backed by global arrogance, by attacking Bihac, a city of 70,000 people, have actually opened another front to confrontation against Islam and have unveiled their criminal intentions, in defiance of "not very serious" warnings of U.N. authorities, it said.

The statement condemned the humiliating silence of the international community and those claiming to be advocates of human rights as well as the deliberate procrastination of NATO in defending the rights of oppressed and innocent people of Bihac.

Elsewhere in its statement, the Islamic Propagation Organization called on Muslims of the world to react to such crimes and rush to defend Bosnian Muslims.

The IPO requested leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to issue necessary orders for dispatch of Basiji volunteer forces to counter Serb criminals.

The statement in conclusion called on the Iranian people to massively attend Friday prayers congregations to be held nationwide on December 2 and voice their hatred of the Serbs and their supporters.

Editorial Views U.S. Attempts To Initiate Talks

NC2811181094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Nov 94 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "A Repetitious Prescription"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

"In the meetings that I had with the representatives of the various Persian Gulf countries as well as other countries, I sensed that most of the friends of the United States in the region are openly indifferent to Washington's policy of containment and even ridicule it in private circles. Despite the populist analyses, U.S. policy has not been able to change the revolutionary regime in Iran or to topple it."

These remarks were made by Gary Sick, a U.S. national security adviser for the Carter Administration, in an article on Iran. He added: "It is necessary for the Clinton Administration to send a senior representative such as Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, to initiate talks with Iran without any preconditions. Such an move would give a more serious cast to Washington's request for talks with Iran. Pelletreau is a seasoned diplomat and his experiences in talks with 'Arafat at the embassy in Tunis indicates that he can be frank and firm. His participation will force Iran to present its security concerns at an official meeting."

This is not the first time that an American official has called for opening a round of talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran. On previous occasions, whenever U.S. foreign policy has run aground, White House officials, or at least some one linked with U.S. policy-making circles, have made similar recommendations.

Gary Sick does not seem to have forgotten the incident involving McFarlane, the national security adviser to President Reagan, and the humiliation caused by this preposterous act. He is certainly aware that even now the U.S. Republicans are not immune from its repercussions.

Once again, Washington today feels a sense of bitterness that it is at an impasse. Even though some reactionary Arab leaders have signed an accord of compromise with Israel—after exerting much pressure and luring them with incentives—nothing much has changed in the region. Our nation continues its wrathful struggle against the enemies of Islam; the intifadah still has the first word in the occupied territories; and the coterie of reactionary Arab leaders who have fallen into Israel's trap have no way out and are even suffering disgrace at the hands of their own people.

Thus, it is very clear that the latest proposal for talks with Tehran is also geared to the eliminating of the apprehension and the political problems of the stymied foreign policy of the White House. It is not a measure of concern about Tehran, as Gary Sick admits. Even the policy of containment has not been effective and has been subjected to ridicule by the friends of the United States in the region.

If only Gary Sick had proposed some more logical ways of extricating the United States from this impasse instead of writing such repetitious articles on subjects which have been written on by others before him without effect. Apparently, he is devoid of the perseverance and acumen required to make even a basic analysis of U.S. foreign policy and to trace the reasons for its failure, defeats, and inability to achieve Washington's objectives and to clearly concede that no one in the world, not even the friends of the United States trust Washington's stances. If we observe that in some countries Washington is making some headway, it is because it is capitalizing on the promises and pressure to which the servile Arab leaders—who have no popular base—have succumbed.

The fact is that the U.S. politicians take a very deceptive approach to their public's opinion. Even now, they are striving to project the Islamic Revolution as isolated and rejected. If this were so, and if Islamic Iran had an isolated government without supporters and if its stances had no popular backing in the region, there would be no reason for the United States and Israel to express so much anxiety regarding Iran's stance on talks. Instead, with the signatures of some of the signatories of the compromises in hand, they would consider everything to be going the way they wanted it to and would naturally not be subject to any worries.

The main point here is that Islamic Iran has chosen a stance that is endorsed by the Muslim nations, and is pursuing this path with all its being. However, the United States and the propaganda media under the domination of Zionism, with its strict news censorship, are seeking to give the impression that all in the region are in favor of the compromise talks and that only one isolated pariah without any backing is opposing them.

The timeworn claim of support for terrorism has a similar background. The United States is supporting the most savage terrorist governments of the world, and the stigma of the shame of supporting bloodthirsty dictators has been etched on the foreheads of the Washington echelons. Israel is the most conspicuous example of the illegitimate, terroristic, and usurping entities on which the United States has based the priorities of its Middle East policy—that is, making the regional governments conform to the Tel Aviv terrorists. It has constantly turned a blind eye to Israel's nuclear proliferation policies and has even assisted the Tel Aviv regime in boosting the efficiency and the modernization of the Zionist nuclear centers in Israel.

At the same time, the United States is trying to exert pressure on the other countries in the region so that they go on the defensive and have to defend themselves. The Washington hierarchy is well aware—and it is essential that they realize—that if such policies have been effective with regard to others, they have never been effective in its approach to Islamic Iran and the Islamic revolution and never will be.

Commentary Analyzes U.S.-PRC Relations

NC2811153294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Nov 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "Why the United States Needs the PRC"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The signing of the Washington-Pyongyang accord on North Korea's halting its nuclear activity and the subsequent satisfaction expressed by Jiang Zemin and Clinton are manifestations of the new spectrum of political cooperation between the two countries. This cooperation will affect southeast Asia.

After extricating itself from the era of isolation in 1970 and then for several decades sitting at the confluence of the Eastern and Western blocs, the PRC has emerged as one of the important military powers of the world, rivaling the United States in the aftermath of the dismemberment of the Soviet Union.

International affairs experts view the relations between the two countries against the backdrop of a general equation of "one, two, five." This means the existence of a single military-economic power (the United States), two military powers, and five important economic powers in the world and these comprise the entire framework of the international system.

On the basis of this theory, the PRC, the United States, and Russia are the three main military powers of the world. This reality has compelled the United States to include the PRC as a strong power in the formulation of all kinds of international strategies, especially in east and southeast Asia.

Of course, the PRC has stepped up its diplomatic activity since the late 1980's and has increased its participation in international political and security matters especially in southeast Asia. It has also boosted its open-door and free market policies.

Accordingly, in the past five years, political leaders of the PRC have had a total of 20 meetings with U.S. officials. In most cases, when there were differences of opinion, statements were issued by the two sides; this happened on quite a few occasions. One of the major sources of differences between the two countries has been and remains the repeated allegations by the White House regarding violations of human rights. However, it appears that the White House has constantly utilized this ploy in pursuing greater goals on the basis of its arrogant policies. And it is employing the same tactics with the PRC.

The White House does not view the PRC very favorably as an international power and finds the acceptance of this reality very difficult. On the other hand, it is constantly seeking to prevent the PRC from forging relations with countries on the list of the opponents to Bush's new world order. Washington's pressure on Beijing stems from this consideration.

The PRC's closeness to Iran and Pakistan has been constantly monitored with apprehension by the White House. In the five years of active PRC diplomacy—that is, 1989-1994—diplomatic visits between Iran and the PRC were at their highest; and from the U.S. political and security perspectives, this is appears to be a two-sided danger.

Despite this, the Beijing hierarchy should keep in mind the fact that its experiment of putting too much trust in the United States in the late 1970's and at the beginning of the 1982 decade [as published] was the most bitter experience in their foreign policy archives [preceding word in English]. This was the period most PRC political circles and politicians consider the worst time in their foreign policy. It was a major blunder that dropped the PRC in the U.S. lap without any benefits accruing to the PRC's national interests.

At present too, if Washington has provided a place for the PRC in its security and military plans, it is not due to any acceptance of the prestige of the Yellow Dragon, but more to push its own plans, of which North Korea is perhaps the first sacrificial victim.

Business Official Urges Membership in GATT

LD2711111194 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 27 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, industries and mines, 'Ali Naghi Khamushi reiterated the need for Iran to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Interviewed by the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS', Khamushi said under the present circumstances the best policy is to create favorable conditions for becoming a GATT member. He referred to the second development plan and said that the government forecasts exporting of dlrs. [dollars] 27 billion worth of non-oil goods in the second plan.

Khamushi told the paper: "We have strong export capacity for traditional commodities such as carpets. When our metal and petrochemical products come fully on stream, we believe we can surpass the above figure."

Yet, he underscored the need for employing realistic export policies and adopting series of sound long term export policies, membership in GATT in particular.

Khamushi stressed that membership in GATT does not conflict with the government's economic and political policies which recommends active participation in international institutions.

He believes that once GATT starts its operation the non-member states will face many economic problems.

Khamushi added that today world capital knows no boundaries and goes where there is a profit and emphasized the need to create conditions that can attract foreign capital.

Commentary Analyzes Second Five-Year Plan

NC2811200694 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 17 Nov 94 p 4

[Commentary by Dr. Seyyed Mohammad 'Adeli: "The Second Plan and the Policy of Economic Adjustment and Reform"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Second Five-Year Plan for social, economic, and cultural development has been approved by the Islamic Majles after months of detailed debate, overall and partial changes and amendments. The general objectives, the larger policies, and the lines of implementation have been defined clearly in the various sections of the program and in the appended notes.

The first question that arises is: What is the course of action taken in the Second Plan regarding the policies of economic reform which have become known as "economic adjustment" and which were considered the most controversial part of the First Plan? Has the Second Five-Year Plan suspended these reforms or does it stress their continuation?

In order to answer this question, we must first recall that economic adjustment is the name given to the corpus of policies that are implemented in the areas of finance, commerce, administration, foreign investment, prices, the private sector, and the distribution of income so that equilibrium will be established in the commodities market, in investment, and in the work force. Let us see in the Second Plan what policies have been approved:

1. In the section on financial policies, stress has been laid on creating monetary control, a reduction of the budget relative to GDP, a reduction in government expenditure, and increasing government revenue. In addition, the government has been asked to delegate a part of its services to the nongovernment sector.

2. Regarding monetary policies, reference has been made to bringing interest rates to a rational level and to projecting a positive rate for the actual income accruing from deposits as well as to the utilization of bonds and securities in order to elicit cooperation from the private sector and cooperatives in offering banking services. The activation of the investment market, the stock exchange, and permission to deal in various kinds of securities have been defined as the policies of this sector.

3. Foreign exchange policies in the proposed Second Plan stress a managed floating rate and refer to two key points: One is the uniformity of the parity rate and the other is that our currency should be capable of being converted to foreign currencies on the basis of the floating rate. The government is authorized to utilize its foreign exchange reserves up to a ceiling of $10 billion in various forms for this purpose.

4. Mass participation and privatization are emphasized in various parts of the Second Plan. As regards the broader objectives of the Second Plan, the strengthening of the participation of the general public and the delegation to the people of some of the economic, executive, and developmental functions which do not jeopardize the government's control have been mentioned. In another section, the need for boosting legal support and creating facilities for greater public participation in economic, social, and cultural activities regarding the absorption of private investment and cooperatives have been particularly stressed.

In this regard, the government has been requested to take the necessary steps so that by the end of the Second Plan period the GDP share of the private sector and cooperatives will have increased considerably so that the government's share will be greatly reduced.

5. Regarding the reform of the foreign trade system, customs restrictions are limited to qualitative control and quarantine; and controls regarding the kinds of commodities are limited to goods banned from the legal or shari'ah point of view. It has been proposed that complex bureaucratic procedures be eliminated. Accordingly, it has been suggested that all kinds of restrictions be in the form of tariffs. Another important point regarding facilities for the ingress and egress of goods is to provide incentives for interested individuals and to prevent monopolies. Collectively these measures are known as free trade.

6. Price reform is one of the most important of the economic policies stressed in the Second Plan. It is aimed at reforming the prices of services and staple goods. In note No. 19 in the bill on the Plan, an adjustment of rates for water, electricity, petroleum byproducts and gas has been clearly specified. In all other cases, it has been stressed that the general index in this regard should be price conformity to the final production costs.

7. The merger of the government administrative departments which began in the First Five-Year Plan has been given special importance in the Second Plan as well. In Note No. 31 of the Plan, a Supreme Administrative Council is set up for this purpose; it will be responsible for all mergers, dissolutions, transfers of institutions and

organizations away from the center, and the delegation of those affairs and activities of the executive apparatus which can be given to the nongovernment sector.

8. The abolition of monopolies, boosting of exports, free trade zones, relative compensation for reductions in purchasing power by allocating direct subsidies and assistance in earning a living, and continued subsidies for essential goods are among the other salient features of the Second Plan, all of which indicate the broader and deeper continuation of economic reforms.

All the above policies were pursued in the First Plan as economic reform and adjustment, but each of them generated quite an outcry. The People's Deputies in the Majles have approved the Second Plan after investing much effort, expertise, and extensive debates regarding the experiences of the First Plan. Therefore the approval of the Second Plan highlights the following two factors:

A. The decision to carry out economic reforms in the country was a necessity, the correctness of which will become clearer with the passage of time. Thus, the outcry which arose regarding each of these policies during the First Plan should be viewed as initial and natural resistance to change, and it is hoped that this will metamorphose into cooperation in the Second Plan.

B. The approval of the Second Plan indicates stability of the general policies and the continuing economic directions of the system, which will inspire the necessary confidence about reconstruction and development.

Armenian Economic Delegation Visits Kish Island

LD2611093694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The vice president of Armenia and the managing director and officials of the Kish Island free trade zone discussed the expansion of trade and tourism between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Armenia through Kish Island. A high-ranking economic delegation from Armenia is paying a three-day visit to Kish Island where the delegation will inspect the island's facilities and investigate the possibility of investment in the Kish Island free trade zone.

A final statement will be issued at the end of the visit clearly outlining the areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Japanese Business Delegation Visits Yazd

LD2611140294 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yazd, Nov. 26, IRNA—A delegation of Japanese entrepreneurs on Friday visited 21 industrial and mineral units in this province. In a meeting with the Japanese nine-member delegation, Governor General Gholam 'Ali Seyfid expressed willingness of the people in his province to expand cooperation with Japan.

He pointed to the development projects under implementation in the province such as providing the cities with drinking water, city gas, solar power plant, and south-north railways through Bafq-Tabas as well as promotion of tourism.

Meanwhile, head of the Japanese delegation said that his country imports dlrs. 2,000 million worth of merchandise from iran annually, highest figure in Japan's imports in term of volume while exports dlrs. [dollars] 1.5 billion worth of goods to Iran per year, second exporter in the Iranian market.

Some 1,200 industrial units are operating in the province, 76.6 percent of which are in the provincial capital city of Yazd.

Velayati Urges Iraq To Change Behavior

LD2611152294 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 26 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 26. IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says Iraqi statesmen were throwing obstacles in the way of Tehran-Baghdad relations and that Iraq should change its behavior if it wants good relations with Iran, a newspaper reported today. Speaking to a group of theological students in Mashhad (Khorasan), he said that more efforts should be made by Iraq for improvement of its relations with Iran, KEYHAN newspaper reported.

"The Iraqi Government should not support the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and Iraq's approach to this issue will show how much it is interested in establishing ties with Iran," the Persian daily quoted Velayati as saying.

Eslewhere in his speech, the foreign minister reiterated "the Islamic Republic of Iran will defend its islands in the same way it defends its mainland." Velayati, saying that the 1971 accord inked by Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] was still valid, noted that the accord has specified how Iran should deal with the Arab residents of Abu Musa island. If there is misunderstanding on the part of the UAE in connection with Iran's implementation of the accord, negotiations were the solution, he said. Velayati said there was no other alternative but negotiations in order to remove the misunderstanding between the Islamic Republic and the UAE.

Pointing to Iran's relations with Europe, he said despite the fact that the west considered Iran as the only country in the Middle East which enjoyed stability, Europe has not yet shown any indepedent initiatives in its foreign diplomacy. Europe should follow an independent policy separate from that of the United States in order to adopt a logical political, economic, cultural and trade policy towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commentary Discusses 'Unrest' in Saudi Arabia

NC2711122794 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Nov 94 p 16

[Commentary by Yusef Gharavi: "The Fragility of the Monopolistic System of the Al Sa'ud Dynasty"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The recent political unrest in Saudi Arabia and the unprecedented remarks by King Fahd on the wave of arrests of various religious elements has once again caused political observers to take note of signs of fragility in the monopolistic political system of the Al Sa'ud regime and the necessity of expanding the level of political participation. [passage omitted]

There are two main factors of note that paved the way for the emergence of dissident trends and broadened the popular base among the citizenry of Saudi Arabia.

The first is the jehad war in Afghanistan against the former Soviet Union and the presence of Saudi youths and clerics alongside the Afghan mojahedin in this war. Subsequently, they returned to Saudi Arabia. This resulted in the eruption of numerous political and security problems due to their differences with the regime and their awareness of the true nature of the Al Sa'ud regime and its dependence on foreign powers.

The second factor was the repercussions of the Kuwait war and the presence of thousands of American soldiers in the cities of Saudi Arabia, which in and of itself was a considerable disruption for the traditional society and heightened the objections of the Wahhabi youths and clerics in Saudi Arabia. These two factors deepened the dichotomy in the theological apparatus and later evolved into friction and confrontation with the monarchical regime.

It should be mentioned here that, for security and military reasons, the Saudi dynasty depends primarily on the National Guard, which mostly consists of the pro-Saudi Bedouin tribes and is administered by the Saudi heir apparent 'Abdallah and his brother. In any case, recent events indicate that trust and confidence within the National Guard is not the same as that in the armed forces. In the 1979 clash the Saudi Government used the Armed Forces instead of the National Guard against Jahman al-'Utaybi and his associates, most of whom were officers and sergeants in the National Guard.

On the other hand, the Saudi Armed Forces—one soldier of which is as expensive as five American soldiers—are notorious for inefficiency, poor morale, and lack of combat capability. The extravagant weapons purchases of 1990, which were in excess of $105 billion, have not yet brought the armed forces up to the level desired by the Al Sa'ud regime.

In these circumstances, when the Saudis believe that their political existence depends on the political and military presence of the United States in the region, the mounting domestic unrest and dissatisfaction in the young, educated stratum, the Wahhabi clerics, and in university circles have brought the country to a new juncture in its political life.

Meanwhile, in an unprecedented move, King Fahd admitted to the recent arrests and promised that the opposition movement would be crushed. According to political observers, the confrontation between the regime and its opponents—which resulted from the arrests of some famous Wahhabi orators, such as Salman al-'Awdah and Shaykh Safar al-Hawali—heralds the beginning of widespread domestic disturbances in Saudi Arabia and is a warning to the monopolistic and hereditary rule of the Saudi dynasty.

Now, it remains to be seen what reaction the White House will have, given that Saudi Arabia is a strategic base in the Middle East. Will it continue the same policy of collusion, turning a blind eye to human rights violations and to the reports of arrests and torture of the opposition? Or will it be forced to openly intervene in the domestic situation in Saudi Arabia in order to perpetuate its domination over the free flow of oil to the West?

Without any doubt, the internal developments in Saudi Arabia will make it the center of greater attention from foreign circles, and any future actions on the part of the White House to protect its interests will be focused on steering the internal crisis in Riyadh in a direction favored by Washington.

U.N. Offical Hails IRNA's 'Speedy Coverage'

LD2811193994 Tehran IRNA in English 1927 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Head of the United Nations Information Center in Tehran, Iftekhar Ali Choudhari, in his meeting with the managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA], Fereydun Verdinejad, here today, hailed IRNA for its speedy coverage and transmission of detailed information.

Choudhari, who has 35 years of experience in journalism, said the background provided by IRNA in its dispatches has improved the quality of information for public opinion. "We are fortunate, that IRNA often manages to send news and information about the region sooner than the foreign wire services," he added.

Choudhari called for cooperation between the U.N. information center and IRNA for exchange of information, a proposal which was accepted by Verdinejad.

Verdinejad briefed the U.N. official on the activities of IRNA in in its transmission of domestic, regional and world information in order to promote public opinion.

He said some of the disputes in the region and the world were not because of domination or ambition, but are rooted in concerns of the parties involved over threats against national and cultural indentities and misunderstandings arising from lack of access to accurtate information.

The United Nations should help member countries preserve their traditions, beliefs and culture and fulfil its task of promoting peace, cooperation and development.

Nepal

Congress Party Decides To Sit in Opposition

BK2811162594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nepali Congress has unanimously decided to sit in the opposition in parliament paving the way for a minority communist government. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Nepali Congress working committee in Kathmandu this afternoon. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman said their efforts to form a government has failed as the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party decided to sit in the opposition. He added that the Communist Party of Nepal [CPN]-UML [United Marxist-Leninist] announced its decision to form a minority government even as talks were going on with them. The party president, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, told newsmen that they will extend critical and constructive support to the new government. The CPN-UML general secretary, Mr. Madhav Nepal, has described the Nepali Congress's decision as wise and realistic. Talking to All India Radio, Kathmandu correspondent, he expressed confidence that the Nepali Congress will support his party in the vote of confidence to be taken within 30 days of the formation of the new government. The new government is likely to be formed on Wednesday [30 November].

Pakistan

Bhutto Interviewed on Domestic Issues

MS2811113594 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 28 Nov 94 p X

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Stefan Wagstyl and Farnhan Bokhari; place and date not given; from THE FINANCIAL TIMES survey on Pakistan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Question from the Financial Times [FT]: Pakistan's economic policies have been praised by many observers, including foreign businessmen. But there is concern about the country's political stability. What assurances can you give?

Benazir Bhutto: Pakistan went through a transition period in which there was tussle between democracy and dictatorship. That tussle ended last year in July 1993 when the military said they were not interested in intervening. Today in Pakistan we don't have a constitution in name, we have a constitution in fact, we don't have a democracy in name, we have a democracy in fact. The military is totally neutral now. It's not doing political work for the government and its not doing political work for the opposition. Its doing military work, and military work is defending the frontiers of Pakistan.

In the past, many (economic and social) schemes have come on paper but they have not been implemented, but that has been because there has been no popular base in the government. Now there's a government in Pakistan with a popular base. When there's a government with a popular base and grass roots support, it's in a better position to implement its programmes.

There is also concern about law and order in Pakistan. We are addressing the problems of crime. We have inherited a very bitter legacy of sectarianism and of ethnic violence. We have introduced a socio-economic package for Karachi in an attempt to go to the genesis of the causes of resentment among the people of Karachi—that is the lack of transport and the lack of water and lack of sewerage. The government is continuing discussions with the MQM (the radical ethnic political movement in Karachi). But it's a problem that some people are involved in heinous crimes, such as kidnapping and murder.

FT: What can be done about corruption in Pakistani politics?

Benazir Bhutto: We are committed to the elimination of corruption. That's why we have reduced through institutional means the scope for corruption. For example, we have tightened up our banking laws. In fact we have declared a morale crusade to cleanse our society from this evil.

FT: What are your economic aims and achievements?

Benazir Bhutto: We are a role model for the IMF... we have been able to provide very competent management for Pakistan's economic problems. We aimed at macro-economic stability because we believe that without macro-economic stability, micro-economic activity cannot take place at its full potential.

We cut the fiscal deficit to 5.8 per cent of GDP last year and we aim for a 4 per cent deficit next year. Now if this deficit (cut) takes place, we can address the problem of inflation which is the most common problem which ordinary people in Pakistan complain about. We have also, in keeping with our IMF commitments, begun lowering peak import tariff rates, which will be lowered further as the years pass by... also we have sought to improve the taxation collection system.

Much depends now on weather and crops but given good weather and good crops I think Pakistan will be in a good position by next year. So, if within 18 months (of taking office) we can bring real economic stability, we would feel proud of that achievement. It would allow Pakistan's economy to take off. I think Pakistan's economy has tremendous potential which needs to be realised.

Agriculture is also an important concern as it employs 70 per cent of the people. We have increased the wheat support price to promote the growing of wheat and we are expanding edible oil cultivation to cut dependence on imports. We have imposed an agricultural tax on rich landlords. It was with much trepidation that we introduced the bill to be passed by the National Assembly, because our assembly is traditionally dominated by people from the feudal class. But by the grace of God it was passed.

In the energy field we have suffered a tremendous electricity shortfall... so we announced an incentive package for foreign investors interested in setting up thermal plants. We have had tremendous response from the world over—and we hope that within five years we will have increased our energy output at least by 50 per cent if not more.

The massive investment of US$12bn, which we have attracted to Pakistan, will trickle down to the people in about two years. Some Pakistanis are very sceptical about foreign investment in Pakistan, but I think it is because they are not aware that the world has changed so dramatically. And in the 21st century we are going to be witnessing a global economy.

FT: How will you deal with Pakistan's urgent social needs?

Benazir Bhutto: Well, I think that if one had to talk about a theme for the government that theme must surely be social revolution, because unlike past governments we have really concentrated on the social sector. This is also evident from the budgetary allocations made by my predecessors and by our government on sectors such as women's development, population planning minority affairs and other development works.

We have set up a human rights cell in the ministry of the interior... we have also set up an elite anti-narcotics force which is headed by a serving general... we want to send a message that nobody is above the law. The government is committed to upholding the law irrespective of how high or influential any individual may be.

Once we stabilise the economy and give a sound socio-economic basis to the society we hope to continue on to the larger political problems of how narcotics barons run mafias, how certain tribal chiefs run their own mafias with their own guards and their own laws how sectarian groups, funded from God knows where, preach the politics of hatred and violence, and how ethnic parties preach hate at one another.

FT: What are you doing to improve the lot of women?

Benazir Bhutto: I've seen myself that without economic independence, a woman cannot do anything. If my father had not left me with independent means, there's no way that the male members of my family would have permitted me to enter politics. They would have made sure that I didn't have funds or a home or space or a telephone to do a thing.

So that's why I've always believed that the key to a woman's independence is economic independence. We have tried to make Pakistan a role model for other Moslem countries by introducing a system for women's rights in a Moslem society. We have done that by lifting the ban on women taking part in international sports, by setting up a women's development bank which has allowed a mushrooming of women-oriented small industries like garments, slimming boutiques and beauty salons, in the urban areas of Pakistan.

We have also done that by setting up women's police stations. In some Moslem societies, women are kept behind locked doors. Here in Pakistan women go knocking on doors investigating crimes. So it's a totally different society—it's a society on the move and on the march.

FT: There is international concern about Pakistan's nuclear programme and about its dispute with India over Kashmir.

Benazir Bhutto: As far as Pakistan's nuclear programme is concerned, it is a peaceful programme, but we have shown tremendous restraint in not exporting the technology, in not detonating a device and we feel that this restraint ought to be recognised.

After all, if this restraint is not recognised then what is the use of restraint, especially when I took an opinion poll and 99 per cent people in Pakistan said that we should detonate, so I think it must be recognised that there are tremendous domestic pressures on the government. And if we have an international concern on non-proliferation, we must all work together to strengthen the goal of non-proliferation and not take a myopic view that results in something opposite taking place.

I feel that root cause of tension in the sub-continent ought to be addressed, and that root cause is the political dispute over Janwu and Kashmir, a dispute which is recognised by international law.

Leghari: U.S. Pressure on Nuclear Program 'Eased'

BK2511154494 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 25 Nov 94 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Pressure on Pakistan's Nuclear Program Eases"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While addressing a conference of industrialists, traders, bankers, and representatives of business establishments the other day, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari not only threw light on the problems of the industrial and commercial sectors but also assured full government cooperation in resolving them. The president also discussed in detail the affairs of the state and answered questions of the participants.

The president informed the conference participants that U.S. pressure on Pakistan's nuclear program has eased and its attitude now is not as harsh as it used to be, which shows that Washington has begun to work realistically. This can be seen as a good omen for Pakistan and it is hoped that the United States will ultimately recognize the veracity of Pakistan's stand and feel reassured that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful, constructive, developmental, and medical purposes. Pakistan has no interest in manufacturing nuclear weapons. It considers the country's economic development and stability as the most effective and reliable means to improve the current situation.

Referring to the Karachi situation, the president said the government is doing everything possible to restore peace to the country's only port city and most important economic center. A long-term plan has been prepared to eliminate the antisocial elements and its implementation is expected to yield encouraging results.

The president observed that whenever the government raises the Kashmir issue at any international forum, the acts of murder and plunder in Karachi are intensified. This clearly shows that all these things are happening at the behest of foreign agents. The government is taking steps to track down these agents. The president condemned the tendency to evade tax payments and urged the industrialists and traders not to show any slackness in paying the taxes due. He said all public welfare services run with the revenue collected from the people and are for the good of the masses. Tax evasion has now become a kind of culture which needs to be done away with. The industrialists and traders should cooperate with the government in this regard and willingly fulfill their obligations.

Removing the misunderstandings of the industrialists and businessmen, the president said government decisions are not made with certain vested interests in view. The government's economic policy and its economic targets are unambiguous and its long-term and short-term plans are clear and distinct. All these plans are designed to make the country self-reliant and to provide resources for the prosperity of the people in the shortest possible time. The president admitted that the industrial and commercial sectors are facing numerous problems because of the inadequacy of the basic infrastructure, but, he said, the government is doing its best to improve infrastructural facilities in the shortest possible time. Road construction and repairs are continuing and the railway system is being improved. So far as education is concerned, Pakistan is considerably backward. The education system is obsolete and it cannot meet contemporary academic requirements. The government is fully aware of this fact and is very actively engaged in making basic arrangements for the promotion of vocational and results- oriented education. The manner in which the government has arranged foreign investments in the energy sector to solve the energy crisis for ever has been praised by one and all. The country's economic development depends mostly on the private sector. If the private sector displays its organizational capability together with its technical and educational expertise, it would put the country on the path of rapid progress.

Nuclear Test Urged Prior to NPT Conference

BK2811151794 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 28 Nov 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Deterrence—the Prerequisite for Pakistan's Existence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the British newspaper SUNDAY TIMES [as published], Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that 90 percent of Pakistanis want to detonate a nuclear device. The Pakistani Government, however, has practiced Islamic moderation and restraint on nuclear issues. Pakistan should be rewarded for this, but it has only been punished for its stand. Economic and military assistance has been cut off since 1990 under the Pressler Amendment, and the delivery of the F-16 aircraft—for which cash payment has already been made—has also been refused. The prime minister said that in global affairs Pakistan has also fully cooperated with the United States, the West, and the United Nations. It joined in opposing the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Pakistan has played its due role in sending peacekeeping troops to Somalia and other countries. It is regrettable that Pakistan has not been rewarded for these things and is even now being subjected to pressure.

Pakistan's role as cited by the prime minister cannot be disputed by anyone. Of course, the prime minister would not be justified in succumbing to American and Western pressure and making the regrettable decision to cap the nuclear program, thus ignoring the views of 90 percent of the people who are in favor of detonating a nuclear device. By chance, this was done during the tenure of the previous government. The Indian threat faced by Pakistan does not require any explanation. India has made Pakistan the target of its naked aggression three times. It separated East Pakistan by force in 1971 and created Bangladesh. Everyone knows about India's conspiracies to defeat and disintegrate the remainder of Pakistan. In Kashmir, the reign of terror unleashed on the Kashmiri Muslims by over 600,000 Indian occupation troops could affect peace in the subcontinent at any time. Pakistan cannot effectively prevent Indian aggression by relying solely on the strength of its traditional armed forces and conventional weapons.

By detonating a nuclear device in 1974, India made no attempt to hide its nuclear ambitions. To meet this threat, Pakistan embarked upon research in the nuclear field. Thank God, despite worldwide restrictions, based on the strength of our resources and our nuclear capabilities our nuclear scientists were able to develop our nuclear program to such an extent that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif could declare the existence of a nuclear bomb. Despite all the existing disputes, India did not have the courage to complete its aggressive designs. This means that Pakistan's nuclear program has proved to be a guarantee for peace in the subcontinent. In the future, Pakistan should not give up its option of nuclear deterrence. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto should tell the United States and the people of the West in unmistakable terms that she cannot run her government in Pakistan by crushing the aspirations of 90 percent of its people. The truth is that no government in Pakistan would be safe if it compromised the nuclear program.

A global-level meeting will be held next year to revise or extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and Pakistan is under pressure to sign the treaty. With its current technology, Pakistan should prove its nuclear capability by detonating a nuclear device prior to the meeting so that there will not be any justification for pressuring Pakistan to roll back its nuclear program. Pakistan's security, independence, and sovereignty depend on its nuclear program. The Pakistani authorities should erase from their minds any thought of deviating from the nuclear deterrence policy to even the slightest extent. The prime minister, who wants to get some sort of reward or reciprocal goodwill gesture from India or the United States, should think about this. At first she tried to convince India that she helped it on the issue of the Sikhs, but she did not get anything in return. Now she is trying to convince the United States. She must adopt a policy that takes our national interests and the people's feelings and sentiments into consideration. It is useless to expect any reward from India or the United States.

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